SUNDAY
April 13, 2025

BENGALURU
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GETTING A FACELIFT

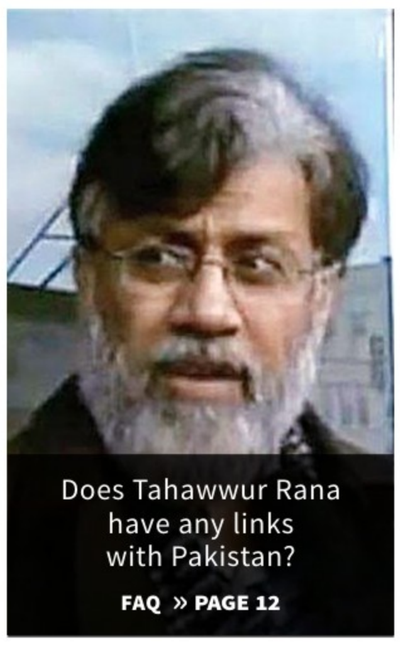
Saras plane trials in Dec. 2027

NAL has been working on redesigning the aircraft after a crash in 2009

NEWS » PAGE 9

Amid an atomic tug of war with the U.S., Iran comes to table for talks

PROFILES » PAGE 13



Does Tahawwur Rana have any links with Pakistan?

FAQ » PAGE 12

Abhishek's incredible knock powers Sunrisers home

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

JD(S) launches protest against Congress govt.

BENGALURU
With the slogan 'Sakappa Saaku Congress Sarkara' (Enough of the Congress government), the Janata Dal (Secular) launched a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru against price rise and alleged corruption. Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy participates. » PAGE 6

Probe into seat-blocking scam halted

BENGALURU
CET-2025, the gateway for admission to professional courses, including engineering, will begin on April 15. However, the investigation into the alleged engineering seat-blocking scam that took place last year has now been halted without reaching a logical conclusion. » PAGE 3

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T.N. notifies 10 Acts after SC deems assent implicit

This is the first time Bills have become law without the President's or Governor's formal assent; 'DMK means creating history,' says party leader and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in social media post

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Legislative history was created in Tamil Nadu on Saturday, when the State government notified 10 Acts in the Government Gazette, making them the first Bills to become law without the assent of either the President or the Governor.

The development follows the Supreme Court's verdict that these Bills, readopted by the State Assembly and forwarded to the President by the Governor, were "deemed" to have received assent.

Responding to an X post on the topic, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said: "DMK means creating history."

Empowering varsities

Most of these Acts deal with the appointments of Vice-Chancellors in State-run universities, transferring powers previously vested with the Governor-Chancellor to the State government instead.

"History is made as these are the first Acts of any legislature in India to have taken effect without the signature of the Governor/President but on the strength of the judgement of the Supreme Court," DMK's MP in the Rajya Sabha P. Wilson said in a social media post, adding that, "Our universities will now be cleansed and taken to a new level under the chancellorship of the Government."

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Bills turn laws

The 10 Acts which have been notified by the T.N. government

- The Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Act, 2020
- The Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Amendment) Act, 2020
- The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Act, 2022
- The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University (Amendment) Act, 2022
- The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai (Amendment) Act, 2022
- The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (Amendment) Act, 2022
- The Tamil University (Second Amendment) Act, 2022
- The Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Act, 2023
- The Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Amendment) Act, 2023
- The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2022

Centre likely to file review petition in SC

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry is likely to file a review petition against the Supreme Court's April 8 judgment allowing judicial intervention if Governors withhold assent to legislative Bills for too long.

The judgment also prescribed a three-month timeline for the President to decide on Bills referred by the Governor.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that a petition was being readied against the judgment, which lays down definite timelines for the Governors and the President.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

Caste census report: OBC reservation proposed to be hiked from 32% to 51%

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The Socio Economic and Educational Survey (caste census) report, accepted by the Karnataka government on Friday, has proposed an increase in reservation for other backward classes (OBCs) from the existing 32% to 51%. This would result in total reservation in the State going up to 85%, including 10% for the economically weaker sections (EWS) and 24% for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

The survey puts the backward classes population to be around 70% of the State population.

New category

It also proposes creation of a new category for the purpose of reservation and movement of castes between categories.

The proposed re-classification of matrix for reservation has been drawn adopting the creamy layer concept, which will be applicable even to Category 1, which had been exempted earlier.

More categories

The number of categories proposed has gone up from the present five to six, with an addition in Category 1 – as A and B.

A separate category of 1-A has been created for nomadic castes. Several most backward castes that were in 2-A category have also been moved to 1-A that has been provided with 6% reservation. The population of castes in Category 1-A is about 34.96 lakhs or about 8.40% of the State's population.

Orphan children not knowing their castes have also been given reservation in 1-A. In all, Category 1 has 4% reservation currently.

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Category-wise allocation of quota

Category	Population	% of total OBC population	Recommended ratio for 51%
Category – 1A	34,96,638	8.40	6
Category – 1B	73,92,313	17.74	12
Total	**1,08,88,951**	**26.14**	**18**
Category – II A	77,78,209	18.70	10
Category – II B	75,25,880	18.08	8
Total	**1,53,04,089**	**36.77**	**18**
Category – III A	72,99,577	17.53	7
Category – III B	81,37,536	19.55	8
Total	**1,54,37,113**	**37.08**	**15**
All total	**4,16,30,153**	**100**	**51**

Total population surveyed 5,98,14,942

Total OBC population 4,16,30,153

Proportion of OBC population

After dip in II PU results, fewer students downloading CET admission cards

Students have been advised to download the admission tickets as they have two more chances to take the II PU exam. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The dip in the II PU annual exam-1 results has affected the downloading of admission tickets for the Common Entrance Test (CET-2025) scheduled to be held on April 15 and 17.

As per data available from the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), of the 3.3 lakh candidates who have registered and paid fees for CET-2025, 2.85 lakh have downloaded the admission ticket while 45,000 are yet to download it.

"The downloading of admission tickets has slowed after the announcement of the II PU results," H. Prasanna, Executive Director of KEA said.

Following this slowdown, he has advised students to download the admission tickets as they have two more chances to take up the II PU exams and improve their marks. "Don't miss the chance to attend CET just because your II PU scores are less," he said.

Further, Mr. Prasanna requested students not to skip the CET as it will be held only once a year. "There are opportunities to improve your II PU marks, but CET will be held only once. If you appear for CET, we will even consider the marks scored in the third exam while announcing the rank. Even during CET-2024 many students who improved their marks in II PU exam-3 were assigned CET ranks and allowed for professional courses admissions," he stated.

Two militants, soldier killed in gunfights in Jammu

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Two unidentified militants and a soldier were killed on Saturday in two separate gunfights in the Jammu region, where multiple anti-militancy and anti-infiltration operations are on.

A spokesman of the Indian Army's White Knight Corps said one soldier, identified as Subedar Chand, died while foiling an infiltration attempt by terrorists close to the Line of Control in Keri Battal of Rajouri's Sunderbani.

The soldier belonged to the Army's 9 Punjab battalion and was injured on the night of April 11. He later died. "We stand in solidarity with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," the army said. In the Chenab Valley's Kishtwar district, where anti-militancy operation is on for the past four days, the army killed two more militants.

"In the ongoing operations at Chhatru, Kishtwar, despite bad and inclement weather, two more Pakistani terrorists have been eliminated. A large quantity of warlike stores including one AK and one M4 rifle have been recovered," the Army said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

3 killed in violence sparked by Waqf Act in West Bengal

Charred remains: A vehicle torched during the protest against the Waqf (Amendment) Act in Murshidabad on Saturday. ANI

Moyurie Som
Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Three persons were killed on Saturday in West Bengal's Murshidabad district as protests over the Waqf (Amendment) Act turned violent in parts of the State.

"Two deaths have occurred in communal clashes. One person, injured in Friday's firing in Suti, succumbed to injuries today," a senior police official told *The Hindu* in the evening.

A father and son –H argobind Das and Chandan Das – were allegedly hacked to death by a mob at Dhulian in Shamsherganj. Seventeen-year-old Izaz Ahmed Sheikh, who was hit by a bullet in police firing in Suti on Friday, died on Saturday.

Urging calm, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee stated that the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 would not be enforced in West Bengal. "Remember, we did not make the law that many are agitating against. The law was made by the Centre. Therefore, the answer should be sought from the Central government. We have made our statement on this matter clear – we do not support this law. This law will not be implemented in our State. So why are their riots," Ms. Banerjee said on social media.

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DEPLOY FORCES: COURT » PAGE 7

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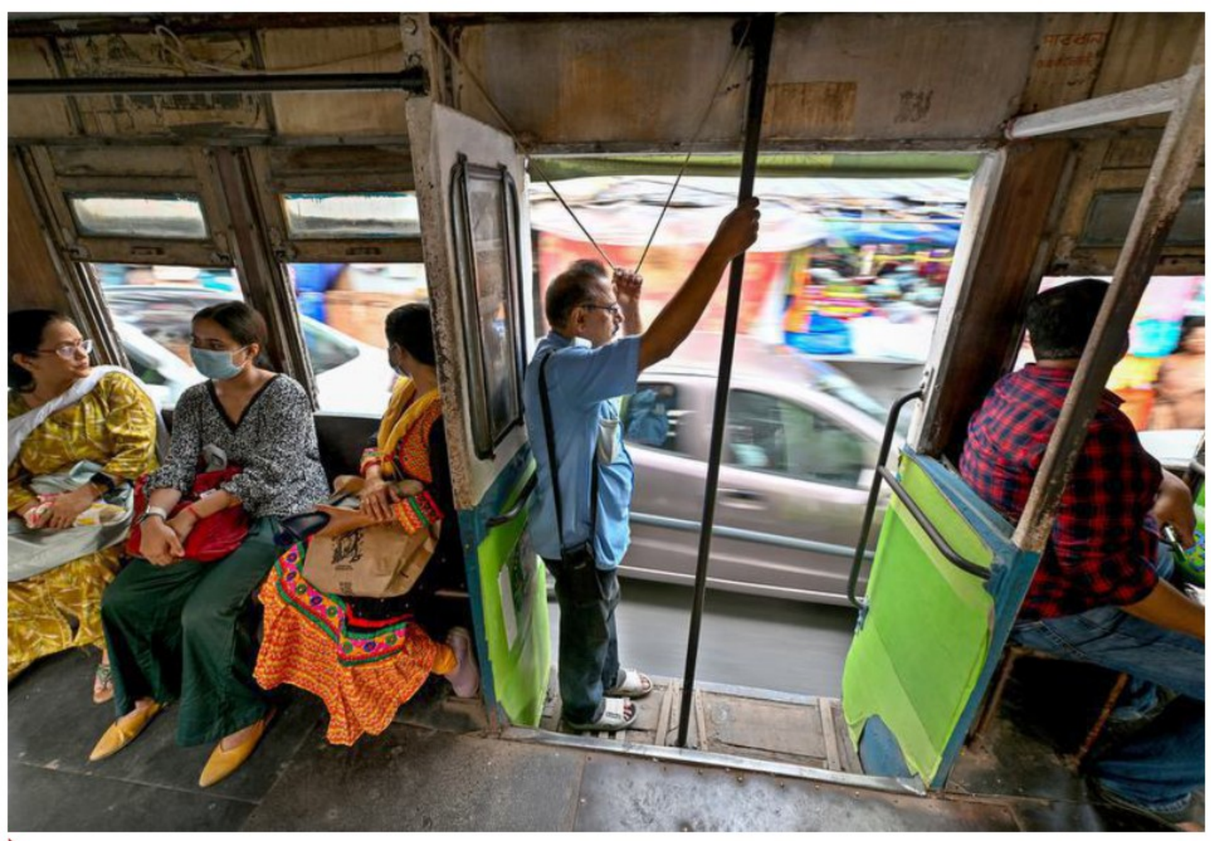
In a blur: A tram glides through the streets of Dharmatala in Kolkata during the early hours of the day.



Street views: A conductor looks out as a tram navigates the busy streets of Dharmatala.

Crucial junction: A tram crossing a traffic signal at Esplanade in Kolkata. Trams run only on two routes in the city today.

Tackling a tough track

Kolkata, which introduced trams in 1873, has witnessed a sprawling network get reduced to a nostalgic whisper; a petition seeking restoration of services is in court

K.R. Deepak
deepak.kr@thehindu.co.in

Once an emblem of the rich heritage and a mainstay for everyday commuters to criss-cross the city, trams in Kolkata run now on just two routes: Gariahat to Esplanade, and Esplanade to Shyambazar. The city, which introduced trams in 1873, has witnessed a sprawling network get reduced to a nostalgic whisper. Yet, this slow-moving heritage on wheels keeps going, thanks to determined efforts of enthusiasts such as the Calcutta Tram Users Association (CTUA).

From March 28 to 31, the association organised a Tram Festival to celebrate this iconic mode of transport. The event featured heritage rides, exhibitions, and discussions highlighting trams not only as a symbol of Kolkata's identity, but also as a sustainable, environment-friendly solution for urban mobility. "It is more than just a ride; it is a memory for many and a clean future for the city," said Surendra Ram, a tram driver since 1995. "I have seen generations travel with me: students, office-goers, lovers sharing a quiet corner – the tram is enmeshed into Kolkata's soul," he added.

Meanwhile, a specially decorated tram, adorned with the theme of the Sundarbans with vibrant images of the Bengal tiger as a way to raise awareness of the consequences of climate change and the need for eco-friendly modes of transportation to protect the environment, has become a popular attraction.

According to the CTUA, successive State governments have shown little or no intent to preserve this non-polluting, energy-efficient means of transport. A public interest litigation seeking restoration of tram services is being heard in court.

As Kolkata hurtles forward, many fear that it may lose its patient, and graceful commuter. For now, the tram bell rings, perhaps calling out not just to alert those on its path, but also to move public will and vision.

Giving way: A tram waits for a yellow taxi to move off the rails at the Wellington Square Crossing in Kolkata.

Classifieds

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RC CHRISTIAN 28/160 M.S,Speech Therapist in USA,seeks suitable groom working in USA/Canada. Ct:9940251659

CHRISTIAN, CSI, Age 31, MBA, HR at Chennai, interested in emigrating. Contact: 8138900530

TAMIL MUSLIM, Age 22, MBA, Upper middle class family, Need a guy who follow the principles of Islam. Call: 8138900575

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BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS MD doctor, Chennai, seeks christian groom, CT – 9500188067

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HINDU, SC,Adi Dravidar , Age 28, M.Arch, Researcher at Chennai, Income 10 Lakhs. Ct 8137003549

HINDU, VANNIYAR, Age 26, B.Arch, Architect at chennai, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900537

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DOCTOR MD 37yrs 165cm divorcee seek Tamil speaking well settled groom from Chennai/Bengaluru preferably non–smoker&teetotaler Ph: 9445018192

HINDU DIVORCEE, 44 yrs, Very fair, Good Looking, PQ, No child, Seeks qualified groom CNB. 9080169045

MUDALIAR ANUSHAM, Vrichigam, 31/165, MA (HR), Chennai, Business Family, Financially Well Settled Seeks Suitable Educated Groom from Decent Family. Whatsapp: 9884863220.

HINDU SC AD, 33, BE, MBA, Employed, Slim, Good Looking, Chennai BasedElite Family , Seeking well Educated,Well Placed Groom From Elite Family.Cast no Bar. Ct: 96771 13040.

LOOKING FOR a groom below 41yrs for divorced Hindu Nadar graduate getting 1–L Pm in a govt job 9443156344

HINDU, 24 Manai Chettiyar, 24 Yrs, B.Com, MBA, Administrative Professional, Looking for Any Chettiyar Groom. Contact: 8138900652

HINDU, MARAVAR, Age 31, B.Tech, IT Professional, Income 40 Lakhs, Looking for a graduated Groom. Contact: 813700549

HINDU, YADAVA, 31 Yrs, MBBS, Doctor at Chennai, Family doing business. Call: 8137003548

BRIDEGROOM NEEDED FOR SECOND MARRIAGE
42 YEARS BEAUTIFUL AND RICH GIRL
NEEDS RICH BRIDEGROOM
BRIDEGROOM FAMILY AND BROKERS, CONTACT US IN THE BELOW PHONE NUMBER
CONTACT 9443027071

BRIDES WANTED

BUSINESS

SMART, SUCCESSFUL, 30, 179cm, US–educated businessman (BE, MBA) from multicultural family. Seeks kind, educated, compatible partner. Religion/caste no bar. Call/ WA 9345634365.

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

IT SENIOR Director, Chennai MNC, Hindu, SC, AD, 39, BE, Veg, Unmarried.Tamil origin, Fluent in Hindi & English.Seeking Hindu, Unmarried, Veg only Bride.Caste No Bar. Mob:7871691025

COSMOPOLITAN

BRIDE FOR our son, 38, 188 cm MTech MS Engineer Sweden, Mudhaliyar. 9884187197. Uthiradam.

SMART, HANDSOME, 37, 175cm, MEng (US), in Big Tech ($400K+), broad–minded S.Indian family. Seeks warm, compatible US–based bride. Language/caste no bar. Call or WA 9345634365.

MALAYALAM

EZHAVA HINDU MBBS 31 Chathayam 178cm Settled In Rudrapur, Uttarakhand, Owns A Path Lab Seeks Well Qualified Beautiful Match 9690185000, 9837826699

HANDSOME NAIR boy,Calicut, BTech, MBA,33/170cm, Senior Manager, highly reputed company, from a rich Nair family seeks suitable alliance. Makam Shudhajathakam, Mob: 9847756036.

NAIR PARENTS EKM seeks alliance for son age 45/175cm Slim, Star Chithira, B.Arch, Ex Army officer, MBA Oxford University, working in UK. Interested parents of well qualified suitable girl, Please Contact : 9605050822

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, CATHOLIC, Age 27, MBBS, Doctor at Chennai, Rich and Affluent family. Ct 8138900498

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN IYENGAR, 36, 191 cms, Divorced, MA, LLM, Lawyer. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

SENGUNTHA MUDALIYAR, 28, 178 cms, Businessman, ME. Lives in Pondicherry. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any community. Contact: 6366448343

KALLAR, 24, 185 cms, Double Masters, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

RC CHRISTIAN NADAR, 26, 178 cms, MBA, Business. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for like minded match, preferably Christian Nadar. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 23, 163 cms, B.Sc, Student. Lives in Vellore. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Preferably Chennai, Bangalore, Coimbatore. Contact: 6366448344

KSHATRIYA, 29, 163 cms, M.D, Doctor. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community from Chennai, Coimbatore, Bangalore. Contact: 6366448344

DEVAR, 25, 165 cms, Employed, BE, MS. Lives in Madurai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

CSI NADAR, 25, 163 cms, Doctor, MS. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match from any CSI community. Contact: 6366448343

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COSMOPOLITAN

37YRS OLD keralite PSB mngr with bladder disorder. Less chance for s*xual life. Ready for IVF for conceiving.Brides with health issues are welcome. Religion caste or language no bar. 88910 82891

DOCTOR

MUDALIYAR 29, MBBS, MS, Seeks Very Kind Bride Doctor Don't Hope in Cast, Jathagam. Ct : 78240 23030

ENGINEER

HINDU, NAIDU, 28yrs, ME(IT), Employed Canada, Permanent Resident, Seeks Engineer bride, CNB. Whatsapp or call 9840757993.

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

MENON / NAIR bride wanted for 27/183 cm, M.Tech (IIIT), TCS-IT professional,15 LPA, only child, financially sound. Ph: 94917 90362

TAMIL

RC CHRISTIAN Nadar, Well Settled Boy in Chennai/ 25 yrs/ 175cm/ME/ MNC/ Seeks Suitable Match Belonging to Reputed Family. Call:9500 073039

LOOKING FOR RC Christian Bride Working/Studying/Citizen in USA for H1B Visa groom working in Texas, B.Tech(CSE) 30 yrs/172cm Mob: 8898987699

CSI NADAR UnMaried 53/174 MPhil GovtOficer 30L; 52/170 PhD Prof House@Chennai Seek FC/BC 1st Mariage around 40 Educate Profession 9444514097

TAMIL MUSLIM, Age 29, completed B.E, Doing Business With family at Chennai, Income 10 Lakhs, Looking for any muslim. Contact: 8138009140

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170. B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai, CT – 9500188067

TAMIL MUSLIM, Age 26, B.Com, M.Sc, Managing Director at Chennai, Rich and Affluent family. Call: 8138900312

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar 28 MS USA seeks same community bride with H1B Visa, MS student or from any country Willing to relocate to USA 9382266099

35YEARS, B.TECH, 173cm Ht, 70kgs, Brownish Colour, working as Manager in Govt Bank,18 LPA, Father IRSS (Retd), Mother SBI (Retd),Own Houses in Chennai, Seeking Suitable Match with Good Background 9940507235

HINDU Arunthathiyar 33 Poosam Kadagam BE, Asst. Engineer TNEB Janakilai employed Bride. ct:9524829734

RC NADAR, 30yrs, BE, 30Lakhs/ pa, Elite business family. Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9380791999/ 9841329471

AUDITOR/ 45 Chennai/ 30 L p.a Seeks Any Vegetarian Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

HINDU, CASTE no bar, Age 30, B.Sc, Working as manager, income 12 Lakhs Ct 8138901171

HINDU, AGAMUDAIYAR, Age 26, M.E Completed, Doing Business at Chennai, Income 20Lakhs. Ct 8138900312

TAMIL

VEGETARIAN FAMILY, Pillai – Karkathar, 12/12/1994, Revathy/ Meenam, Asst–Professor MS (General Surgeon), having Own Clinic, Chennai, well settled family, expectation PG Doctor/ Software/ Professional, Family Oriented Girl. Contact: 9841039515

41Y,176CM HANDSOME,FAIR, non–smoker & teetotaler, divorced, legal consultant&Entreprenuer, well settled in Chennai,seek bride Ph: 9840234030

VANNIYAR, 42, BA, Divorcee, No child, Seeks suitable brides, any cast Ct. 9094381898, 9551445551.

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 31yrs Dr MD Pathology Kovai Medical Centre, Coimbatore. Mob:9842221324 (M), 9894186469 (F)

MUDHALIAR 26 BE 182cm Business / Reputed Builder Chennai seeks High Profile Fair Mudhaliar / Pillai Bride Ct Geetham 9884858014

CHENNAI, MUDALIAR Cast Nobar, PhD, InnoctDivorcee 41yrs GM Chess Govt 2Lac/mth.Hindu Edu Girl: 9884171419

TAMIL

HINDU – BE/33/170/SWE/Sc/ayillam–katagam. Educated and well settled family in Bangalore. Looking for a suitable Bride from the same / other caste. Contact No:9845401461.

PERMANENT RESIDENT in United Kingdom, PG qualified in U.K.and working in U.K.as software engineer seeks doctor/engineer/C.A bride living in India or abroad from decent family. Hindu B. C.,33yrs,178cm,68 Kg. Contact parents in Chennai 9841294930

HINDU, CASTE no bar, age 31, Doing business, Income 40 Lakhs, Upper middle class family. Ct 8137003551

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 30, Divorced without children, MBA, Business, Income 1 Crore, Well settled family, Interested can call: 8138009214

HINDU, NAICKER, 28 Yrs, B.E studied, Engineer, Income 30 Lakhs, Looking for a Bride from good family background. Contact: 8138009139

MUDALIYAR, 32/180, Rishabam/ Kiruthigai, M.Com, MBA, 1.75Lpm seeks Bride from Decent Family. 9841233083.

NAIDU, 38, BE, MBA, Bank Officer, Seeks Bride from Naidu Family From Tamilnadu. Ph: 9443172955

HINDU NADAR, 31yrs, BE, 2 Lakhs pm, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9841329471

NAIDU, MAY 2000 born, MBBS MD Seeks MBBS MD Studying Bride. Contact: 94430 50715, 94879 00758

RE–MARRIAGE MUDALIYAR 58 Govt Service own house Seek bride 45–50 yrs Any OC / BC. Ct: 89392 60200

MUDALIAR, 37/172.5, BE, 25 LPA working as a Software Consultant in reputed MNC in Bangalore. Warmly welcoming a bride from humble, cultured, educated & traditional family. Ph: 9994517104

THEVAR (KALLAR) 31yrs 179cms Fair BE MNC 90 Lacs PA Rich family, seeks well educated bride from Mukkulathor Pillai Mudaliar Ct: 9499013844

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180 B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220984182

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB. Ct:9442993042

TAMIL VISWAKARMA, 39/179cm, Chithirai, Kanni, B.E, MBA., Unmarried seeks educated Partner. Caste no bar. Ct: 9944097021

BE, MS/ PhD-IIT-M, Hindu/31/Fair, MNC BLR, BCs, Contact - 9840161742

Hindu 36 years SCA, Divorcee Looking for Never Married Bride. Contact: 8525852104.

SC, CHRISTIAN, Age 29, M.Tech, Engineer, DLF at Chennai, salary Rs. 75000 pm, seeks suitable Graduate Bride Ct:8939177665

HINDU NADAR, 40yrs/185cm, M. Tech(IIT Madras), Sr. Principal Engineer(Chip Design) in an MNC in Bangalore, eggetarian, teetotaller, seeks never married, suitable bride, Caste No Bar. Ct: 9840117920.

HINDU, CASTE no bar, Age 28, B.E, MBA, Risk Analyst at MNC Bank, Income 20 Lakhs, well settled family. Call: 8138900537

HINDU, MUTHARAIYAR, Age 34, B.E completed, Engineer, Family doing business, interested can call: 8138900523

TAMIL

HINDU, VANNIYAR, Age 27, Diploma, Graphic Designer at Thanjavur, caste no bar. Contact: 8138901171

MUDALIAR 34 Divorce, ME, 22L PA 178cm Smartlook well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

TAMILIAN DOCTOR family seeks a suitable match for their Vegetarian Son 2001born Btech + Ms(Uk), operating family owned hospitals. (8792066353)

CASTE NO Bar, 27yrs, B.Tech, Running Own business in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 27/180, Handsome, MBBS, MD, Apollo Hospital,1200000.PA, Elite, 50.CR, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

Looking for a well educated, slim, fair Bride from a decent Tamil Family for Hindu Sozhiya Vellalar Pillai, Post Graduate Engineer, fair, aged 26 years, height 175 cm, Non-Vegetarian. Engineer in a Multinational Company at Bangalore. Please WhatsApp biodata to 9490956857.

SC/AD/ B.SC. MBA, DOB:1977 Thiruvonam, Bride Groom Seeks suitable Qualified Bride 9943629339 / 9994219315

2ND MARRIAGE CNB 35 Yr / M from Elcot Trichy, 55 Yr / M Dentist, Cousins, Seeks Bride. Ct : 8122867516

BRAHMIN IYER, Age: 50, First Marriage, BE, MBA., seeks suitable Bride. Brokers welcome. Ct: 9940317381

TAMIL IYER boy, 26/185, handsome, Bharadwaja Gothram, B.Tech & MS from top US University, with clean habits, 40 LPA, B'lore based MNC IT firm, with mild vision loss seeks suitable alliance. Contact 9901802909

BRIDE WANTED
Tamil, 184cm/31yrs, Masters BOM Univ.
Groom well settled in business from Malabar hill Mumbai.
looking for beautiful & Tall Bride from Affluent well established business family.
Pls send Horoscope & Full profile with family background
Mail : kumarsub11@yahoo.com
Ph : 98204 16291

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion.
CT: 93842 76066

BRIDE WANTED
Alliance invited from Senior IAS Officer (R), Chief Secy Grade for his Son 31/178cm, Tall, Handsome, Teetotaler MBA Finance, Premier B School Central PSU, 18LPA.
Financially Sound, Nuclear Family, Maharashtrian / Tamil Parents, Settled in Chennai. Looking for girl CA/ CS, MBA/ Non IT/ MBBS/ LLM
CASTE NO BAR
Whatsapp 7305236868

TAMIL

IYER TAMIL Divorcee 50yrs SWE MNC Chennai Seeks Minimum Graduate without Issues. Caste No Bar. 9841942915

WANTED BRIDE
God Fearing Rich Family, Vanniyar Padayatchi Settled in Tiruchirappalli invites Proposal for their 2nd Son, Rasi-Viruchigam, Star-Kettai, Age 30, Fair, 175 cm, Rahu Ketu Dosam BE Civil. Owns a Luxury 4 Star Hotel (Hotel Vijayarani) Opp. Govt. Hospital, Trichy, adorns as MD of the Hotel and also Constructs his Own Apartment (Builder). Besides Many Assets.
NO BAD HABITS
Caste No Bar
Seeks Suitable Girl with Rahu Ketu Dosham
Parent Contact
94431 24712
ramalingaji@gmail.com

Hindu Devanga Chettiyar 35yrs BE., IT Chennai. Rs.7LPA. Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 97899 80192 / 73583 22391.

SBI Manager 32/168 BE Aero Inter caste only son Rich seeks Doctors / Govt. Officers. CT: 96003-90006.

TELUGU

KAMMAVAR NAIDU, 34, BE MBA, Well Settled in Chennai Seeks Bride any Naidu any Financial Status Plus Two or any degree. Contact : 8610003565.

REDDIYAR 34/185 Kettai/Viruchigam MCA IT 2.20L pm Seeks Bride from decent family Subsect NoBar 9655594878

RICH NAIDU, 27yrs, BE, well Educated Family background, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9962791888

KAMMA NAIDU, 1st Mrg. 45, Mesham, Kirthigai, BE, MBA, Seeks Suitable Bride. Cont: 9841537114 / 9841233252

URDU

URDU MUSLIM 34 yrs, IT Professional from Trichy, working in Bangalore, Salary 1.5 lakhs per month, issueless divorcee, seeks suitable issueless girl. 98410 60600

SMU Chennai based Boy 34/168 B.E MBA workg@Chennai own house well settled family seeks bride.8122989086

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

32Yrs Son,Tamil, SC, MBA, M.Tech., working in IT, 17 LPA, seeks suitable Bride and 28Yrs Daughter, MBA, B.Tech., working in IT, 13 LPA, seeks a suitable Groom. Cell: 9441677205

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

DOCTORS BRIDES, Grooms Search Tamilnadu All States US UK Canada www.indiandoctorsmatrimony.com 7824023030

TAMIL

SOZHIA VELLALAR Slim fair 26/170 BE, 18 LPA, Seeking professional groom from Tamil family. Ct: 9025400750

RICH MUDALIYAR, 25yrs, M.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9962791888

HINDU NADAR, 26yrs, BE, 1.5 Lakhs/ pm, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9841329471

CASTE NO Bar, 40yrs, B.Tech,MS, Industrialist Business Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 24/165 Fair Beautiful, Slim, MBBS, PG Doing, Afflunet Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

MUDALIAR (CNB): 29/ V.Fair, MBBS, MS,Doctor, Pvt.Hosp, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks groom – Doctor/ Eng – 8925019776

TAMIL

MUDALIAR: 25/ V.Fair & Beautiful, B. Tech, MS (UK), Textile Business, Chennai, Elite Family, seeks groom – Business / Abroad – 9962530015

TAMIL GIRL, 2000 Born, Bangalore Based Only daughter from a reputed family, 300 Cr net worth. Looking for a well–established, suitable match (8792066353)

HINDU, THULUVELLALUR Mudaliyar, 31 Years, 5'4' B.Com. Seeking Suitable Groom should hail from a decent, educated family. (Same caste) . Contact with Uncle MOB: 6379227882 paramborntowin@gmail.com

VADAMAL IYER,31 years,173 cm postgraduate doctor bride from a well to do family seeking well educated groom from affluent family between 2–4 years age difference residing in Chennai. Contact 9444010182

TAMIL

BRAHMIN VADAMA parents invites alliance for Good looking young widow in mid forties /MSc / 163/ Fair / well settled entrepreneur, no encumbrance from Chennai based doctors, engineers , professionals of similar stature(subsect no bar) Brother : 7416442737

IYER BHARADWAJA 28/153 MS (Engineering) Punarpoosam (3) MNC USA Seeks Suitable Tamil Iyer Groom between 28-33 years Working in USA. 7639702929.

✔ Groom 45-48 Years for Affluent Vadama Tamil Bride, Swathi, Vadoola. Comfortably endowed with own house. Please respond with key information and Photo to WhatsApp # 98410 26998.

HINDU SC, 25yrs/165cms, MBBS, Preparing for PG, seeks Doctor Groom from Reupted Family Ct: 86107 78322.

TELUGU

RICH KAMMA Naidu, 32yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 6385293227

ARYAVYSYA FAIR 34/168, Widow with 7Y son, Vegetarian, working in MNC seeks Well Settled Professional Groom. contact – 9840919297

RICH REDDIYAR, 30yrs, M.Tech, Running Own colleges in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

TELUGU NIYOGI Brahmin, Punarvasu, Kasypasu gothra, Age 23, Height 177cm, MBBS, seeks, well settled groom from Telugu Niyogi Brahmin family. Age 26 / 27; Preferably Doctor/Bangalore based, Please respond: JCDVG2012@gmail.com.

Hindu Naidu, MBBS, M.D, 34/160cm, Simmam/ Magam, seeks suitable Doctor, CA Groom. Ct: 80722 14843

URDU

FAIR SMU girl, 163cm, 27 PG Sports Nutrition well settled educated family. seeking alliance from the same 9840189869

B.ARCH 26/ 163 Fair Hijabi Chennai seeks well educated well settled Namazi from Tamilnadu. Ct: 9791216228

SMU PARENTS from reputed & respectable family well settled & established in Dubai/ Kochi/ Chennai seeks groom from decent family for their daughter BBA /30yrs/151cm/ Very Fair/ pious / humble / homely WhatsApp: 8089023420 Call: 8848880792

SUNNI MUSLIM 29/168 MS (MBA) US IT, California seeks US based professional groom. Whatsapp: 9840124476

Parents seek muslim sunni Doctor Groom for their daughter 30/5 feet medical officer, Nellore, AP Contact: 9492331670.

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS

INVESTOR REQUIRED for Granite Mining & Export Co. Contact:9150263883.

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

150 KG Power Hammer and Batliboi Radial Drilling Machine for Sale. Ph: 09447942261

From Page One

Caste census report: OBC reservation proposed to be hiked

"The nomadic castes cannot compete with any other castes and hence we felt a separate category is required for them under 1-A. The categorisation and percentage reservation allocated to each is based on education, employment and other factors," sources said.

Among the other changes, Kurubas are learnt to have been moved from Category 2-A to 1-B, with other castes that gets overall 12% reservation for a total population of 73.92 lakh or 17.74 % of the State's population. The reservation for Muslims in Category 2-B has doubled from 4% to 8%, documents obtained from government sources show.

According to the proposed reservation matrix, the Category 2-A, will have 10% reservation for a population of 77.75 lakh or about 18.70% of the total population. It currently has 15 % reservation. Category 3-A, comprising Vokkaligas and others, will have 7% reservation for a population of 72.99 lakhs or about 17.53% of Karnataka's population. Currently, the category receives 4% reservation.

Panchamasali demand

The Panchamasalis whose decade-long demand to be included in 2-A category has not been met with. They will continue in Category 3-B along with other Lingayat sub castes and other communities. The 3-B with a population of 81.37 lakhs or 19.55 % of the State population is given 8%, up from 5% currently.

The report submitted by the former chairman of Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes K. Jayaprakash Hegde in 2024 was based on the survey conducted during the tenure of H. Kantharaj in 2015. The survey includes 5.98 crore population of the 6.35 crore projected population in 2015.

White-topping woes: Commuters left with dug-up roads, dust, traffic chaos

BBMP's Model Road, Link Road, Holiday Village Road in Vajarahalli are among the major stretches where the smooth flow of traffic is affected

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The commuters across Bengaluru are enduring significant hardships as many roads earmarked for white-topping remain in a state of disrepair. In many areas, roads that have been dug up for infrastructure works have been left unattended, creating hazardous and uncomfortable conditions for daily travel. In some localities, the work has not even begun.

Vehicles using a narrow stretch of road on Pattanagere main road connecting Global City Tech Park from Mysuru Road, where white-topping work is being carried out by the BBMP.
K. MURALI KUMAR

₹6,000-crore budget

According to a senior official of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the civic body is currently undertaking white-topping work on 187 km of arterial roads across approximately 50 stretches. The project began in November 2024. Meanwhile, as per the BBMP budget presented on March 29, ₹6,000 crore will be used to white-top more roads over the next five years. An official said the civic body plans to white-top 1,682 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads in a phased manner.

Unhappy

However, even as the administration vouches for white-topping, commuters having to navigate these stretches do not seem to be very happy. A prime example is the BBMP's Model Road, also known as Jawaharlal Nehru Road, located in BEML 5th Stage, R.R. Nagar. Contrary to its name, this "model" road is far from exemplary. Approximately four months ago, a 1.3-km stretch was excavated for utility works. Since then, commuters have had to endure bumpy rides, while shops lining the road are enveloped in thick layers of dust. This is a crucial stretch that connects Kengeri with Uttarahalli Main Road.

Commuters have to endure bad roads till the work is completed, and the inconvenience is temporary, says a senior BBMP official.

Mahesh S., a local resident, pointed out that hundreds of BMTC buses use this stretch since a depot and terminal are situated nearby. The poor condition of the road has made it difficult for bus drivers to manoeuvre through the junction, especially during peak hours. Large potholes had formed on the carriageway, and the asphalt has almost entirely eroded. With a portion of the road closed off, commuters have been forced to take a narrow path to cross between the roads near the bus stand. However, this temporary fix has led to several accidents. Ramesh S., a vendor in the area, complained that without regular watering, dust continues to accumulate, affecting both shopkeepers and residents, who now suffer from dust allergies.

Muddy and slippery

Another severely affected stretch is the 1.5-km Link Road (formerly Kenchanahalli Road) that leads to Global Village Tech Park through Pattanagere. This road, partially white-topped, has turned into a muddy and slippery track due to excessive water being poured by the contractor.

The resulting slush poses a serious risk to bikers, who frequently skid. This route connects the tech park to Mysuru Road and is used by thousands of commuters daily.

Kiran Shetty, a tech professional, told *The Hindu* that he has stopped using his bike to commute due to poor road conditions. "Ironically, the road was in better shape before the white-topping work began," he said. "Pedestrians cannot walk without getting splashed by slush from passing vehicles. I have skid twice and now use my car, which increases my fuel costs while the roadwork crawls forward."

The 2.7-km stretch of Holiday Village Road in Vajarahalli, which links thousands of residents to Kanakapura Road, has deteriorated drastically ever since this area was brought under the BBMP jurisdiction.

Initially dug up for the Cauvery water pipeline, the road has been in a state of neglect ever since.

The senior BBMP official said the civic body is monitoring the works closely, and the contractors are sternly instructed to meet the deadlines. The commuters have to endure bad roads till the work is completed, and the inconvenience is temporary.

New police training module to teach fresh recruits on how to deal with public nuisance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Perhaps for the first time in the country, a newly added chapter in the training syllabus will include how new police recruits should deal with fights over pet dogs peeing and pooping near neighbours' gates, late-night noisy house parties, haphazard garbage disposal, and spitting in public.

The newly recruited police sub-inspectors and constables who are under training have been given the new module on public nuisance and the SOPs to handle them considering the changing issues faced in neighbourhoods of cities.

The decision to add the public nuisance module has been included to train the police personnel on how to react and handle the situation amicably.

According to the police, over 50% of the calls received by the 112 emergency response system pertain to public nuisance, which, if not handled properly, could escalate to bigger law and order issues.

"The new training module will teach them the importance of such issues and on handling them through moderation, counselling and other methods amicably," Alok Kumar, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) (Training), said. "Though this could look trivial initially, it can escalate into bigger issues if neglected," he said, recalling a neighbours' fight over trivial issues that led to stabbing and ending up in an attempt to a murder case in addition to unrest in the neighbourhood.

"The practical aspect will be given more importance than the theory of studying penal sections. Many policemen who are deployed in patrolling duties in urban areas, city, and rural parts of the State will have to face such problems in day-to-day life and the practical training will come in handy," a police officer who is part of the training, said.

CREDAI urges govt. to look into TDR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

CREDAI Bengaluru has requested the State government to urgently consider its recommendations on multiple issues it had placed before over the last two years, outlining various concerns that developers in the city were facing.

"One pressing challenge that remains unresolved is the revalidation sought in respect of the old TDR certificates (Transferable Development Rights) which takes a lot of time to be included in the plan sanction process. CREDAI Bengaluru suggested that old TDR revalidation processes be streamlined." said Amar Mysore, president of CREDAI Bengaluru.

25 policemen to track down man who sexually assaulted girl

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 25 policemen have been deployed to track down the accused involved in sexually assaulting a girl who was walking home with her friends in Sudduguntepalya in the wee hours on April 11.

The incident, which was recorded on a CCTV camera, went viral on social media. The police have recovered 1,600 CCTV footage and went to Krishnagiri district in Tamil Nadu to track down the accused.

The footage showed a man following the victim, who was accompanied by another woman, and sexually assaulting her before fleeing from the spot. While the victim refrained from filing a complaint, the owner of the house who examined the CCTV footage alerted the police, prompting them to take up a *suo motu* case.

Doctors take up initiative to assess prevalance of digital lifestyle-associated liver disease among IT professionals

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A team of hepatologists from Bengaluru have taken up a new public health initiative titled "Liver Tech Check" to assess the prevalence of digital lifestyle-associated liver disease among IT professionals.

The cross-sectional observational study is aimed at assessing the prevalence of Steatotic Liver Disease (SLD) – including Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD) – among IT professionals in the city.

Previously referred to as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), MASLD is known as the fatty liver disease that results from excessive fats being deposited into the liver cells. This condition is often associated with obesity, diabetes, and metabolic syndrome. While the liver normally has some fat, it is of concern when fat makes up more than 5% to 10% of the total weight of the liver, doctors said.

Incidence of MASLD has been increasing, say doctors
GETTY IMAGES

Two-year study

The "Liver Tech Check" is a two-year study focused on understanding the prevalence and characteristics of SLD among adults aged 21-60 years working in the Bengaluru's IT sector.

Akhil Deshmukh, consultant hepatologist at Aster Whitefield Hospital, who is the principal investigator, said the study is aimed at generating baseline liver health data within the Indian tech workforce, spotlighting modifiable risk factors, and encourage early identification.

"Targeting a sample size of over 500 participants, the study employs a structured screening questionnaire based on validated tools. We are looking at capturing data on work stress, dietary habits, physical activity, screen time, alcohol and caffeine intake, sleep patterns, and family history," Dr. Akhil said.

Sonal Asthana, programme director of liver transplantation at Aster group of Hospitals, who is the co-principal investigator of the study, said the questionnaire assesses key lifestyle and occupational risks, including sitting hours, shift work, Work From Home (WFH) - related changes in activity, common SLD symptoms (like fatigue or upper abdominal discomfort), liver enzyme history, and family background of metabolic or liver conditions.

Risk factors

Asserting that the incidence of MASLD has been increasing in epidemic proportions, Dr. Asthana told *The Hindu* the IT workforce has all risk factors.

"The IT sector's work culture - often marked by prolonged screen time, erratic work hours, poor dietary habits, long and irregular working hours and sleep patterns, sedentary routines coupled with Vitamin D deficiency due to lack of natural light and increasing stress is now strongly linked to liver fat accumulation and metabolic dysfunction. A similar recent study done among IT workforce in Hyderabad has found that up to 84% of IT professionals may have fatty liver disease, often undiagnosed due to lack of early screening," Dr. Asthana said.

Pointing out that the disease can be prevented with lifestyle modifications, Dr. Asthana said a balanced diet, frequent physical activity, and weight management are extremely important in minimising and even eliminating fatty liver disease.

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Enmeshed with life: A vendor clears the path for a tram coming through a narrow commercial lane from the Shyambazar depot.

End of the line: Trams from the 1940s stationed at the Gariahat tram depot in Kolkata.

Green message: People travelling in a tram decorated on the theme of the Sundarbans, as a way to raise awareness of climate change.

Last ones standing: Trams on the only two operational routes crossing each other at the Wellington Square in Kolkata.

Probe into engineering seat-blocking scam halted

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Common Entrance Test-2025 (CET-2025), which is the gateway for admission to professional courses, including engineering, will begin on April 15, 2025. However, the investigation into the alleged engineering seat-blocking scam that took place last year has now been halted without reaching a logical conclusion.

Sources allege the police halted the investigation due to political pressure. Concerns have been raised that this may lead to similar illegalities recurring this year. "We have filed a charge sheet against 11 people involved in the scam, detailing their modus operandi and intentions. The case is pending trial," said a senior police officer. "However, if the charge sheet is filed without investigating the engineering colleges involved in the scam and without gathering information about the financial transactions that took place, the accused may be easily acquitted," said KEA officials.

A file photo of students accompanied by parents at the KEA office in Bengaluru, for document verification.

2,000 seats blocked

By misusing the Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of candidates applying for government quota engineering seats in private colleges, some miscreants blocked more than 2,000 engineering seats during the 2024-25 academic year. In this regard, the KEA registered an FIR at the Malleshwaram police station on November 14 last year.

The police arrested 10 people, including a contractual employee of the KEA, for their alleged involvement and recovered 13 mobile phones, three laptops, and several other documents, some of which were allegedly set on fire in an attempt to destroy evidence as soon as the scam came to light.

Subsequently, notices were sent to BMS College of Engineering, Akash Institute of Engineering and Technology, and New Horizon College of Engineering, which were named in the FIR as the alleged beneficiaries of the scam. However, BMS College of Engineering approached the High Court of Karnataka to challenge the case.

The court directed the city police not to take any coercive action against BMS College of Engineering but instructed the college authorities to cooperate with the police investigation in an order dated December 16 last year. Amidst all this, the Enforcement Directorate also wrote to the KEA in December seeking information about the engineering seat-blocking scam.

Political pressure?

Sources said that some politicians, who strongly objected to the pace of the investigation, pressured the police to stall the inquiry for the time being. "One of the arrested accused from Tumakuru is a full-time worker of a national political party and had shared the stage with a Union Minister at a Janaspandana programme," police sources said. In addition, police sources confirmed that he had also been arrested by the Tamil Nadu police in a previous seat-blocking case. It is also known that some of the arrested individuals were involved in a medical seat-blocking scam in the past.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said, "I will soon meet the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner and urge them to complete the investigation at the earliest. If they fail to do so, we will consider conducting the investigation through other agencies."

Home Guards to get paid leave on their birthdays

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Guards who are working with the city police on deputation will be granted paid leave on their birthdays along with greeting cards signed by the city police commissioiner. City police chief B. Dayananda announced this while reviewing the guard of honour on the service parade held at City Armed Reserve grounds here on Friday.

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SEP panel seeks another extension to submit final report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Education Policy (SEP) Commission, headed by Sukhadeo Thorat, has requested the Higher Education Department for another extension to submit its final report. The department has forwarded the request to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The commission stated that the report was ready, but the translation to Kannada was going on and it needed at least another month.

"In the request, the commission has sought time till the end of May. The decision will be taken by the Chief Minister. We have forwarded the request to him," said M.C. Sudhakar, Higher Education Minister.

Missed two deadlines

However, sources in the department revealed that the Minister was not keen on extending the time again because the commission had already failed to meet two deadlines to submit the final report.

Earlier, the commission had announced that the SEP report would be submitted to the government by the end of February 2024. Later, it was pushed to the end of April. However, the commission submitted an interim report to the government in May 2024 and it said the final report would be submitted by August.

Meanwhile, the commission, which failed to meet this deadline too, submitted a request to the government in September 2024 seeking an additional six months. The government, which accepted this request, had given time till February 2025 to submit the report.

"If the commission fails to meet the deadline further, we will take decisions in the interest of students," the Minister clarified.

As per its manifesto in the 2023 State Assembly election, the Congress, after coming to power had decided to withdraw the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) and constituted a separate commission to formulate SEP on October 12, 2023.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, APR. 13	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:32
RISE 18:52	SET 06:06
MONDAY, APR. 14	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:32
RISE 19:40	SET 06:42
TUESDAY, APR. 15	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:32
RISE 20:29	SET 07:21

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	25
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	34	21

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

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THE HINDU
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288 students graduate from XIME

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 288 students across different programmes graduated from Xavier Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship (XIME) Bangalore on Saturday during its 29th convocation held at the St. Johns Auditorium.

The degrees were awarded to six doctoral programme students, 228 from post-graduate diploma in management in various specialisations and 54 from post-graduate diploma in business analytics.

Around 10 students received awards of excellence in different specialisations of HR, Marketing, Finance and Operations, while special awards and certificates were awarded to first-rank holders in each of the courses.

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Report will be tabled in the legislature after Cabinet discussion: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The report on the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey, or the caste census, will be tabled in the Assembly and Council after discussion in the Cabinet, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in Belagavi on Saturday. He was responding to demands by BJP leaders N. Ravikumar and others that the report should be discussed in a special session of the House before being accepted or rejected.

"The caste census is a part of the Congress party manifesto. It is essential to understand the various levels of backwardness or progress made by various communities. All the courts seek empirical data before allowing governments to provide reservation or social welfare measures. It is basic information about society. We need to understand changes in society since Independence in order to make policies. It is essential. It will be discussed in the Cabinet first and then the Legislature," he said.

He brushed aside complaints by some BJP leaders that the survey was not carried out scientifically. The enumerators have reached an average of 95% households in the State, he said. "They include 98% in rural areas and 94% in urban areas. No survey can reach 100% of the population. That is a fact. Even the 2011 census conducted by the Centre did not reach 100%," he said.

Credit for acceptance of caste census report needs to go to Cong. high command

At the AICC session in Ahmedabad, Rahul Gandhi reiterated the demand for a nationwide census and said the party would replicate what Telangana had recently implemented, across the country

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Congress leaders at the AICC session in Ahmedabad recently. The push that Rahul Gandhi gave emboldened Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to place the caste census report before the Cabinet.

Despite opposition from the leaders of the dominant Lingayat-Veerashaiva and Vokkaliga communities, the Karnataka Cabinet has accepted the Socio-economic and Educational Survey report, popularly called the caste census, of families in the State and the credit for this move should go to the Congress high command.

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi's speech at the AICC session in Ahmedabad provided much-needed confidence to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to table the report at the State Cabinet meeting on Friday and accept it.

What Rahul said
Speaking at the Congress session, Mr. Gandhi reiterated the party's demand for a nationwide caste census and said the party would replicate across the country what Telangana had recently implemented. He hailed the Telangana Congress government, which passed a Bill raising the reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) to 42%, pushing the State's total reservations beyond the 50% ceiling imposed by the Supreme Court.

Soon after Mr Gandhi's speech, Mr Siddaramaiah held a close-door meeting with the former AICC chief and received his endorsement for placing the report in the State Cabinet, sources in the ruling Congress told *The Hindu*.

After obtaining Mr. Gandhi's nod to go ahead with the report, the CM did not give much credence to the opposition to the report within the party and outside.

Interestingly, KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar maintained a steady silence after the Cabinet accepted the report. Mr. Shivakumar had earlier taken a delegation and submitted a petition to Mr. Siddaramaiah opposing the implementation of the report. The Opposition BJP and JD (S) too opposed the report. It is widely believed that the party high command has instructed Congress leaders and Ministers not to oppose the report in the larger interest of the party nation-wide.

In fact, much before Mr. Gandhi's nod, veteran Congress leader and AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge provided the green signal to place the report in the Cabinet, sources said.

Issues in naming
On the fear among the dominant Vokkaliga and Veerashaiva-Lingayat communities that the survey shows their numbers to be lower than earlier believed, Congress leaders said that many families had given their sub-caste names during the enumeration. Many families have not enumerated their caste as the Vokkaliga or Lingayat and this would lead to reduced percentage of the people in two communities, which are so far seen as electorally significant. For instance, families of the Kunchitiga community, a sub-caste of the Vokkaliga community, used their sub-caste name and not Vokkaliga. The Kunchitiga community has a population of close to 20 lakh in the State, leaders have argued.

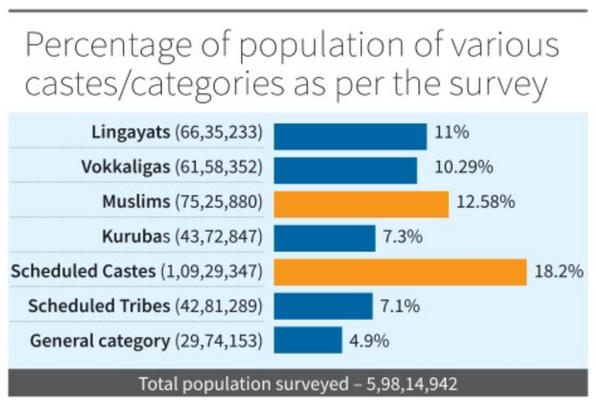
'Not included'
The Kunchitiga community leaders argued that they declined to identify as Vokkaliga because they had not been included in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list of the Union government for seeking reservation in jobs, including all-India services, and seats in educational institutions, said Kunchitiga Mahasabha leader Muralidhara Halappa.

After the anthropological survey, the Siddaramaiah-led government had recommended to the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment the inclusion of the Kunchitiga community in the OBC list.

Meeting on April 17
The Cabinet meeting on April 17 would discuss the survey report in detail. Sources say the Cabinet is likely to form its panel for detailed study on the percentage of reservation. Meanwhile, members of dominant castes are expected to oppose the acceptance of the report.

Population data might upset the apple cart of political caste calculations

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU


Percentage of population of various castes/categories as per the survey
Lingayats (66,35,233) 11%
Vokkaligas (61,58,352) 10.29%
Muslims (75,25,880) 12.58%
Kurubas (43,72,847) 7.3%
Scheduled Castes (1,09,29,347) 18.2%
Scheduled Tribes (42,81,289) 7.1%
General category (29,74,153) 4.9%
Total population surveyed – 5,98,14,942

The nearly decade-long debate over the caste break-up in Karnataka's population seems to have reached a crucial stage, with the Cabinet accepting the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (Caste Census). It is expected to have deep political repercussions, turning the current population narratives and claims of communities upside down.

Already contested by the land-owning and politically dominant communities – Veerashaiva-Lingayats and Vokkaligas – the figures would spur them to now mount pressure on the government not to accept the recommendations, even though the reservation matrix has been proposed to be increased, including a hike in quota for them significantly.

Reduced numbers
The Veerashaiva-Lingayats, who dominate the political landscape in the North and Central Karnataka region, and claimed to be between 18% and 22% of the State's population, are now 11% as per the survey report. Their population is pegged at 66.35 lakh. So far, nine Chief Ministers of the State have come from the community. Similarly, the Vokkaliga population, which is claimed to be around 14% to 16% in the Old Mysore region, is now at 10.29%. Their population is about 61.58 lakh. The gap between the two communities is less than 1%, as per the survey conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

Though the proposed reservation for Lingayat-Veerashaiva has gone from the current 5% to 8%, a source from the Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha said that their "suspicion of the survey data on population had come true." "This is an unbelievable figure and we will fight. We do not agree with the data," said the source.

Even Vokkaliga Sangha sources claimed that their numbers in the survey do not match the numbers on the ground, and that 'caste confusion' during enumeration had reduced their number. A total of seven Chief Ministers who have served the State are from the community. So far, five Chief Ministers, hailing from Other Backward Classes (including incumbent Siddaramaiah), and two Brahmins have ruled the State. The OBC population is estimated to be around 70% of the State's population.

Politically, the influence of the land-owning communities spreads to 51 constituencies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The number of Veerashaiva-Lingayats elected to the 224-member assembly is upwards of 50, while it is upwards of 40 members for Vokkaligas.

Muslim, SC/ST numbers
The caste census puts Muslims as a single block with the highest population in the State, with about 12.58% or about 75.25 lakhs.

The Scheduled Castes together constitute 18.2% or about 1.09 crore of the State's population and Scheduled Tribes constitute 7.1% or 43.81 lakh, who together get 24.1% reservation.

The General category, which is not in the reservation matrix given on the basis of socio, economic and educational backwardness, comprising Brahmins, Arya Vaishya, Mudaliars, Nagartharu and a section of Jains are about 29.74 lakh or about 4.9% of the population. This category is, however, eligible for 10% reservation under economically-weaker sections (EWS).

'Such surveys necessary to assess health of society'

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

H. Kantharaj, former chairperson of the backward classes commission, speaking in Shivamogga on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The former chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes H. Kantharaj has said that the socio-economic survey, conducted when he headed the commission and now accepted by the Cabinet, was carried out scientifically. He said that such censuses should be conducted regularly to assess how healthy society is.

At a press conference in Shivamogga on Saturday, Mr. Kantharaj said the socio-economic survey conducted when he was head of the commission was one such exercise that assessed the health of society. "Caste is a reality in India. Caste-based discrimination should be eradicated to achieve equality. The survey and census are essential to understanding how caste has been strong in society," he said.

Reacting to the allegations, particularly by the dominant Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva communities, that the survey was not scientific, Mr. Kantharaj said the survey was indeed conducted scientifically. The commission studied the relevant court judgments and the previous reports of various commissions and also consulted experts before conducting the survey. "There is no reason to call it unscientific," he said.

Mr. Kantharaj also maintained that the survey was accurate and did try to cover the entire population. "Even after repeated efforts by the Commission, some families could have been left out. If houses were locked, there was no chance to cover such households. This is expected in any survey," the former chairperson said.

"The enumerators visited door-to-door and also covered the homeless during the survey. Initially, the process was meant for 30 days. Later, it was extended by another 10 days to include the households that were left out. The public were given the opportunity to consult senior officials if they were not enumerated," he said.

He appreciated the State Cabinet for considering the survey report that he completed. "I am hopeful the State government will fulfil the objective of the report," he stated.

Mr. Kantharaj pointed out that up to 1931, caste details were collected as part of the census. However, in recent decades, a comprehensive caste census was not conducted. For the first time, the Karnataka government completed the survey in 2015.

Why creamy layer has been recommended for all

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Economic prosperity and upward political movement of members in the castes brought under Category 1 has led the Socio Economic and Education Survey report to recommend removal of exemption from the creamy layer category.

The K. Jayaprakash Hegde-led Commission that submitted the report to the government in 2024 has said that since the economic condition had improved among people in these castes, the creamy layer is sought to be included now.

It also notes that some have become 'crorepathis' through their business and some have come to be identified in the field of politics.

Increase in competition
The report also notes that the competition between and within these communities has increased, adding that it becomes difficult for persons from villages, children of labourers and farmers to compete with the rich in these categories.

Beyond 50%
Justifying the increase in the reservation matrix beyond the Supreme Court capped 50%, the report pointed out that the reservation had already reached 56% with the increase in reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to 24.1% along with the 10% reservation provided for the EWS.

It also pointed out that reservation is 69% and 77% in Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand respectively based on the population.

Long-lost species of velvet worm rediscovered after 111 years

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Typhloperipatus williamsoni was spotted in the Siang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The metallic blue ant, *Paraparatrechina neela*, over 15 species of parasitic wasps, a mollusc and a gecko are among the other discoveries. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A team of researchers at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and The Environment (ATREE) had reported rediscovering a long-lost species of the velvet worms (phylum Onychophora), one of the oldest living fossils in the world, after 111 years.

Named *Typhloperipatus williamsoni*, the ancient species – estimated to be around 220 million years old – was spotted by the team in the Siang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh and the rediscovery was published in the *Journal of Natural History*. The study provides the first molecular data for the species.

Tracing colonial trails
According to the paper, *T. williamsoni* was first collected during the "Abor expedition" by Stanley Kemp, the erstwhile superintendent of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, and his team in December 1911 in Siang Valley. Since Kemp's discovery, there has been no documented records of it from India.

Between 2021 and 2023, the ATREE team comprising Surya Narayanan, D.R. Priyadarsanan, A.P. Ranjith, R. Sahanashree and Aravind Neelavar Anantharam, along with the National Geographic Society and Fellis Creation, followed the trails of the Abor expedition. This time, the researchers found two individuals of *T. williamsoni* for the first time since its description. Interestingly, the specimens were spotted under stones while looking for ants in pre-monsoon season.

Living fossils
"Onycophora is a very old group, easily older than 350 million years. It has only two families and not more than 200 species. The diversity is very less," explained Mr. Narayanan, lead authour of the paper.

"These were evolving almost simultaneously with dinosaurs. When the mass extinction happened, probably a lot of them were wiped out. What we see today is mostly those species which escaped extinction."

The rediscovery of *T. williamsoni*, which was thought of as extinct, also could help solve a biogeographic mystery, he noted.

Turning a corner
The molecular data from *T. williamsoni* indicated that South Asian onychophoras split from their neotropical (Central and South America including southern parts of Mexico and the Caribbean) and only African relatives around 237 million years ago.

Interestingly, the Asian onycophora were found to have no relatives in Australian onychophoras. This is unusual given invertebrates found in Southeast Asia and India are usually related to those in Australia. Asian Onychophora is one of the few exceptions to this relationship. "This rediscovery could actually turn the biogeographical story and could tell us more about how this one small group of animals ended up in Asia from the neotropics, which was always a puzzle," Mr. Narayanan noted.

The metallic blue ant, *Paraparatrechina neela*, more than 15 new species of parasitic wasps, a mollusc and a gecko are among the other published discoveries. "We may take a few more years to discover all the new species we have collected in the expedition," said Mr. Priyadarshanan, who was part of the team. He added that more expeditions will be held in the region.

While the rediscovery of *T. williamsoni*, a naturally rare species, is critical in terms of addressing gaps in the evolutionary history of Asian peripatids, the paper notes that its natural habitat faces significant threats from expanding agriculture, deforestation, and slash-and-burn cultivation in the Siang Valley. The study calls for the conservation of these habitats and broader sampling in the region.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Jayakaran Dharam
21st Oct 1936 – 8th Apr 2025
Founder of Sun Traders and SMT Display Industries, and a pioneer in India's display board industry. Known for his energy, discipline, and generous spirit.
Fondly remembered by sons Mahesh, Tharun, daughter-in-law Anusha, grandchildren Tejas, Jishnu and loved ones.
He will be deeply missed
Om Shanthi
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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SECOND ANNIVERSARY
K. JAGANNATHAN
Son of (Late) P. Kumaragurubaran Pillai (IOB)
Fondly remembered by family & friends

7th ANNIVERSARY on 13-04-2025
ஒழுக்கம், பக்தி இருகண்கள் என்று 82 ஆண்டுகள் புவியில் வாழ்ந்தாய். ஐம்பத்தாறு ஆண்டுகள் என் வாழ்க்கைத் துணை நலமாக இருந்து என் உயிரில் கலந்தாய். என்னை இயக்குகிறாய்.

Mrs.O.R. NIRMALA, B.A.,
(Retd.) Controller, Office of the J.C.C. Of Imports & Exports, Chennai
10.04.1936 FRIDAY — 13.04.2018 FRIDAY
Fondly Remembered by
Husband: V.RAJAMANOHARAN, M.A. (Retd) Deputy Director (I & PR), Chennai-9)
Son: V.R. Murugavel, B.E.
Daughter: S.Thamizh Selvi, B.Sc
Daughter-in-law: Sharmila M.R.SC
Son-in-law: M.Sundar Rajan, M.Tech
Grand Children: Selvi.M, Prarthana, M.Vijaya Prathan, S.Sai Krishna
Mobile: 94449 51564

Man held; 6.8 kg of marijuana seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sudduguntepalya police on Friday arrested a construction labourer and allegedly recovered 6.8 kg of marijuana worth ₹3 lakh from him.

The accused was sourcing the drugs from his hometown in Bihar to peddle them among his friends and other contacts.

Based on a tip-off, the police raided his house in Madduramma colony and seized the drugs. The accused was booked under the NDPS Act for further investigation.

Raghunandana

Kannada theatreperson's book gets V.M. Inamdar award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Theatreperson and poet Raghunandana's book *Tuytavella Navyadatta: Andattara Uyyale...Mattu Adara Sutta*, has been awarded Prof. V.M. Inamdar award by Rashtrakavi Govinda Pai Research Foundation for 2024. The award will be presented on April 23 at the Muddanna Sahityotsava at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial College, Udupi.

The book selected for the award, starts off as an examination of the sonnets of D.R. Bendre in his collection *Uyyale* and evolves into a philosophical, political reflection on the world in general.

Mr. Raghunandana is a theatre director, poet and writer. He was associated with Ninasam, a cultural organisation in Heggodu, Shivamogga. He was awarded the first B.V. Karanth Fellowship by Ninasam Foundation. His play *Etta Haaride Hamsa...*, was awarded the Pu.Ti.Na Kavya Nataka award in 2011.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, **MUNINARASIMHAIAH SATHYANARAYANA,** Residing at No.68, 5th Cross, 8th Main, Avalahalli BDA Layout, Bangalore South, Banashankari III Stage, Bangalore- 560 085, , is intending to purchase for Vacant Site Bearing no. 1149, Situated at Vishwasbharathi International Complex Project Layout, formed by the writers and Artists House Building Co-operative Society Ltd., in Hosakerehalli Village, presently Girinagar II Phase, Bengaluru, which is within the jurisdiction of BBMP, III main, Ward No.54 of Srinivasanagar, bearing PID No.- 54-375-149, measuring East to West 40-0 Feet and North to South: 60-0 Feet, in total measuring 2,400 Sq. Ft. more fully described in the Schedule herein below, from **SRI. RAJESH KONDETI,** S/o Sri. K Ranganadha Naidu, Residing at Kondeti Vandla Vooru, G.K Vooru Post, Bangarupalyam Mandal, Chittor Dist., Andhra Pradesh, who claims to be the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and apart from him, no other person/s has/have any right, title, interest and/or claim/s in or upon the Schedule Property. If any person/s has/have any claims, right, title and/or interest in or upon the same, the same may be intimated to me within 30 days from the date of this publication along with documents in support thereof. If no tenable objections are received within the said period, my client will proceed to complete the transaction, deeming that there are no claims or objections whatsoever.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Vacant Site Bearing no. 1149, Situated at Vishwasbharathi International Complex Project Layout, formed by the writers and Artists House Building Co-operative Society Ltd., in Hosakerehalli Village, presently Girinagar II Phase, Bengaluru, which is within the jurisdiction of BBMP, III main, Ward No.54 of Srinivasanagara, bearing PID No.- 54-375-149, measuring East to West 40-0 Feet and North to South: 60-0 Feet, in total measuring 2,400 Sq. Ft. and bounded on
EAST BY : Property No. 1148
WEST BY : Property No. 1150
NORTH BY: 30Ft Road,
SOUTH BY: Property No. 1148

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Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION BIDAR

No EE/MI&GWD/BDR/TS-1/Tender/2025-26/ 716 Date:09-04-2025

KPP -PROCUREMENT TENDER DETAILS

1) Name of Works: As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 2) Estimate cost of Work: As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 4) Amount put to tender: As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 5) Cost of tender form & Details of EMD: As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 6) Last date & time for tender queries/ clarifications KW-4 Only:17-04-2025 Up to 17-00 Hours, 7) Pre-Bid meeting Place, date & time KW-4 Only: Office of the, Ex.Engr. MI & GWD Divn. Partapnagar, Naubad, Bidar on 15-04-2025 at 11:00 AM, 8) Last Date & Time for receipt of KW-4 Only: 21-04-2025 Up to 16.00 Hours, 9) Date & time for opening Technical bid KW-4 Only:23-04-2025 @ 11.00 Hours if possible, 10) Date & time for opening financial bid KW-4 Only:25-04-2025 @ 11.00 Hours if possible, 11) 1For any clarification and details, office to be contacted: Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division Bidar Phone/ Fax : 08482 232080. 12) Website details:KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
MI & GWD Division, Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/09/KSMC&A/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL, VIJAYAPUR

No: DUDC-5/Indira Canteen/Tender/2024-25 Dated: 09.04.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Portal Only)

The Deputy Commissioner Vijayapur District Vijayapur invites, in two cover system tender from eligible tenderers for providing catering service for Indira Canteen at Urban Local Bodies of Vijayapur District, Package wise service as details below.

1) **Description of work:** Package No: 1 Providing catering service of 06 Indira canteen in city corporation Vijayapur District Vijayapur in Karnataka as per price schedule listed in E-Procurement Portal (**Indent No DMA/2025-26/IND4655). Approximate Value of good & service per year, amount Rs. 678.90 Lakhs. EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) Rs.10.18 Lakhs. Delivery schedule: As given Tender Document.**

2) **Description of work:** Package No: 2 Providing catering service of 13 Indira canteen in Urban Local Bodies in District Vijayapur in Karnataka as per price schedule listed in E-Procurement Portal (**Indent No DMA/2025-26/IND4656). Approximate Value of good & service per year, amount Rs. 746.79 Lakhs. EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) Rs.11.20 Lakhs. Delivery schedule: As given Tender Document.**

Interested eligible tenderers can download and participate through E-Procurement Platform (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) EMD and Tender Processing fees can be remitted through E-Procurement Portal only.

Calendar of Events: Pre Bid Meeting **21.04.2025** Afternoon 4.00 PM **(1)** Last date for submission and uploading of completed tender documents **24.04.2025 17.00 hrs (2)** Opening of Technical Bid **25.04.2025, 17.30 hrs (3**) Opening of Financial Bid **29.04.2025, 11.30 hrs**
For any information contract No: 08352-222988 Email: ka.vijapura.dudc@gmail.com

Sd/- Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/15/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

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*T&C apply

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Yesterday's Winners:
1. Namit Khurana, New Delhi | 2. Aleesha Khan, Chunar | 3. Vineetha Yadav, Andhra Pradesh

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಾವಿನೀಸ ಆವರಣ, ಯಾದವಗಿರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ/ನೀಸ&ಒಚ(ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)/ಟಿಎನ್–01/25/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.04.2025

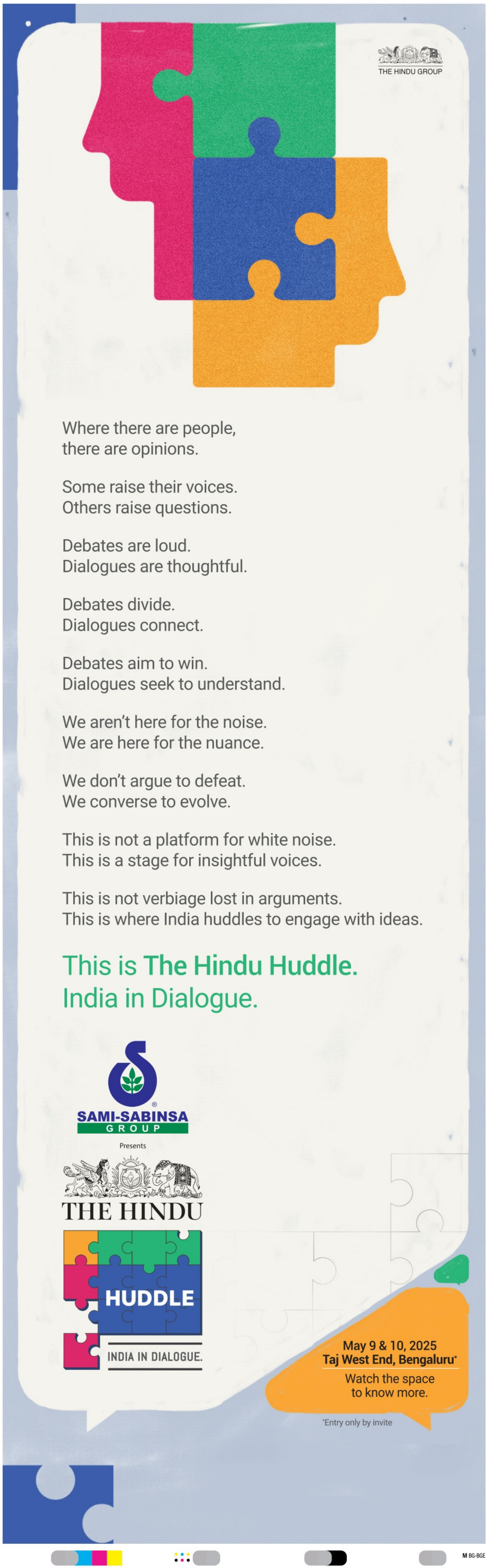
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ **KTPP** ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	Kw-1 & SERVICE TENDERS	07 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	262.70	11.04.2025	26.04.2025	28.04.2025
2	Kw-4 & SERVICE TENDER	02 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	418.24	11.04.2025	10.05.2025	12.05.2025
3	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	02 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	–	11.04.2025	19.04.2025	21.04.2025
4	Kw-1	03 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	39.40	11.04.2025	19.04.2025	21.04.2025

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

DIPR-DD-MYS/054/KSMCA-56/2025-26 **ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು**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Debates divide.
Dialogues connect.
Debates aim to win.
Dialogues seek to understand.
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We don't argue to defeat.
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Arlekar's stance may pose challenges to govt.

The Kerala Governor says that the Supreme Court fixing a time limit for Governors to act on Bills cleared by the State legislature in the Tamil Nadu case is an 'overreach'; his remarks come ahead of SC considering Kerala's plea seeking guidelines for the Governor to act on Bills passed by legislature

K. S. Sudhi
KOCHI

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar's stand that the Supreme Court order fixing a timeline for Governors to act on Bills cleared by the State legislature in the Tamil Nadu case was an "overreach" could open new legal challenges for the Kerala government before the top court.

The possibility of the demand for referring Kerala's petition, seeking to set a guideline for the Governor to act on Bills passed by the State legislature and the challenge to President Droupadi Murmu withholding the assent for four of seven Bills of the State, to a larger bench of the Supreme Court has become live considering the views of the Governor, according to State law officers.

Mr. Arlekar noted in a media interview that the Tamil Nadu case should have been referred to a Constitution Bench. The Governor's response has come ahead of the court considering Kerala's petition in May.

It is to be seen whether the Attorney General of India, who represents the Union of India as well as the Governor, will raise the demand for sending the case to a larger Bench when the top court considers the case, they say.

'Not in Constitution'

Mr. Arlekar felt that the Supreme Court fixing a time limit for the Governor to give assent to the Bills amounted to a constitutional amendment, which was the prerogative of Parliament. He also noted that anyone asking the Governor to act within a certain time period was not implied in the Constitution.

New contention: Possibility of demand to refer Kerala's plea to a larger Bench has become live following Arlekar's views. D.K. SREERAM

The Governor wondered how two judges sitting at the Supreme Court could decide on the fate of the constitutional provisions.

Governor stands firm

Raj Bhavan sources, when contacted, maintained that the Governor stood by the contentions raised in the interview.

Interestingly, the Kerala government wanted its case to be heard by the Supreme Court Bench consisting of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, which passed the landmark order in the Tamil Nadu case, as all its contentions were covered by the Bench's order.

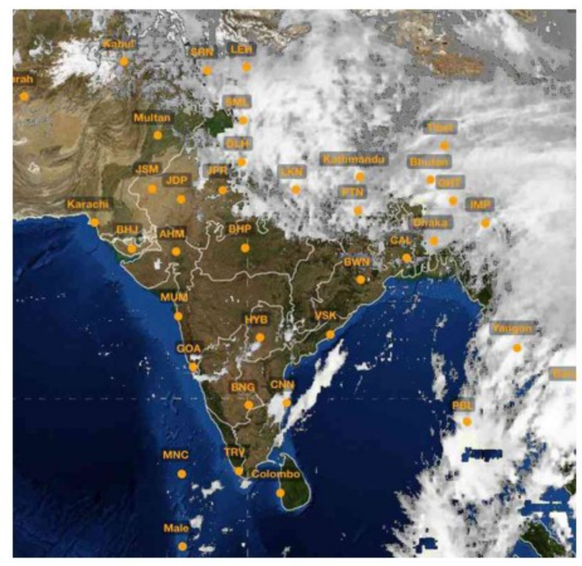
The Attorney General of India had sought time to go through the judgment. However, the Chief Justice of India refused to yield to the State's plea while making it clear that the case would be held on May 13.

P. Rajeeve, State Minister for Law, felt that the Supreme Court would have also considered the intention of the framers of the Constitution while passing the order in the Tamil Nadu case.

"The Governor was well within his rights to criticise the judgment of the Supreme Court. However, the decision of the Supreme Court is the law of the land. The Supreme Court also has the right to review the validity of even the constitutional amendments made by Parliament," he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Nagaland, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karnataka and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.0	25.4	Kozhikode	—	34.8	26.5
Ahmedabad	—	39.0	25.8	Kurnool	—	39.3	26.7
Aizawl	—	32.0	19.2	Lucknow	—	34.8	22.2
Allahabad	—	38.6	24.7	Madurai	—	38.0	24.7
Bengaluru	1	33.7	21.0	Mangaluru	0.2	33.5	24.5
Bhopal	—	37.8	24.2	Mumbai	—	33.5	25.6
Bhubaneswar	—	36.3	25.2	Mysuru	—	35.2	—
Chandigarh	—	32.3	21.8	New Delhi	0.7	35.2	19.0
Chennai	—	39.2	28.1	Patna	—	33.9	23.6
Coimbatore	—	34.0	24.4	Port Blair	9	31.4	25.4
Dehradun	9	29.7	16.8	Puducherry	—	37.8	24.8
Gangtok	4	19.8	12.3	Pune	—	40.9	23.0
Goa	—	35.0	26.0	Raipur	—	40.3	27.5
Guwahati	—	34.0	20.6	Ranchi	2	35.0	19.0
Hubballi	—	37.0	20.0	Shillong	0.4	22.5	14.5
Hyderabad	—	37.7	25.9	Shimla	101	22.8	11.0
Imphal	0.4	28.2	22.7	Srinagar	3	21.4	7.6
Jaipur	—	37.2	21.8	Thiruvananthapuram	63	30.2	22.8
Kochi	4	32.2	24.6	Tiruchi	—	37.3	24.0
Kohima	2	26.4	13.6	Vijayawada	—	41.1	27.0
Kolkata	—	35.6	26.2	Visakhapatnam	—	34.3	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.27	.25	56	241	217	
Bengaluru	—	33	35	71	119	
Chennai	6	7	36	62	119	
Delhi	.18	.71	92	108	130	
Hyderabad	.13	.46	38	82	117	
Kolkata	7	.35	24	52	51	
Lucknow	6	.38	26	74	147	
Mumbai	.10	.24	28	45	106	
Pune	.48	.12	33	225	—	
Visakhapatnam	9	.56	23	66	96	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bundi, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 245 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 31

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

JD(S) launches 'Sakappa Saaku Congress Sarkara' campaign in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the slogan 'Sakappa Saaku Congress Sarkara' (Enough of the Congress government), the Janata Dal (Secular) launched a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru against price rise and alleged corruption.

Among those who participated in the protest were Union Minister and party State president H.D. Kumaraswamy, JD(S) State youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy, and other leaders and party workers. "The government may have given five guarantees, but in return, the people are burdened daily with price hikes," said Mr. Nikhil, addressing the gathering.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said that Congress leaders were attempting to intimidate him, referring to allegations against him of encroaching upon portions of government land in Kethaganahalli village of Bidadi hobli of Ramanagara taluk and the government's action to reclaim it. "But no one can suppress my voice. I will not be silenced," he said.

Turuvekere MLA M.T. Krishnappa alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was "luring Opposition MLAs." "If I ask for a polytechnic college for my constituency, Mr. Siddaramaiah tells me to join the Congress party. Is it right for a Chief Minister to behave like this," he asked.

"It has been two years since we became MLAs. Not even ₹50 crore has been granted for the development of our constituencies. They don't even allocate funds to fill potholes," he said.

After the protest rally, leaders and party workers led by Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy attempted to lay siege to the Vidhana Soudha. They were detained and later released.

JD(S) leaders H.D. Kumaraswamy, Suresh Babu, Nikhil Kumaraswamy and others protesting at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ammonia gas leak: Eight fall ill in Nellore

The Hindu Bureau
NELLORE

Eight workers have taken ill reportedly due to ammonia gas leak at a shrimp processing plant in Ananthapuram village of Thotapalli Gudur Mandal in SPSR Nellore district on Saturday. However, the situation was brought under control within few hours.

According to the locals, ammonia gas leaked in the machine room of Water Base Company. When the alarm sounded, the staff ran out in fear with gum boots. They fell on the ground in panic, and were rushed to hospital.

"First aid was provided and everyone is completely fine. All of them were recovered and discharged on the same day. There are no issues in the plant at the moment," the company representatives told the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders who visited the plant.

Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy inquired about the gas leak incident from officials as well as the TDP leaders.

Work begins on model township for Wayanad landslide survivors

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

The initial works for the construction of a model township for the survivors of the Mundakkai-Chooralmala landslides have commenced just hours after the government took possession of 64.47 hectares of land on Elstone Estate in Kalpetta, Wayanad, following an order of the Kerala High Court.

At the same time, employees of Elstone Estate launched a protest against their job termination while their dues have not been settled and have threatened to block the construction activities.

Though the government took possession of the estate land in March prior to the stone-laying ceremony for the township, depositing ₹26.56 crore, the owners of the estate were not satisfied with the price.

On Friday, the Kerala HC passed an order permitting the government to take possession by depositing an additional amount of ₹17.77 crore leaving room for further negotiations. The court said construction works shall not be delayed considering the urgency of the situation.

As soon as the order was passed, the Wayanad district administration deposited the money and took possession of the land by midnight and issued the permission to begin construction.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client, **MRS. RASHMI GUPTA** is the owner of **Flat No. 005 in Ground Floor of "SPARTA 1" Block of 'Prestige Acropolis', at No. 20, Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bangalore – 560029** (hereinafter referred to as **'said Apartment'**). She has lost/misplaced the Original Documents of the said Apartment including the following:

(1) Agreement to Sell dated 14/02/2001 entered between Mr. Y.N. Gangadhara Setty and others and Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta;
(2) Construction Agreement dated 14/02/2001 entered between M/s. Prestige Estates Projects Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta;
(3) Sale Deed dated 09/12/2002 executed by Mr. Y.N. Gangadhara Setty and others in favour of Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta.
(4) Gift Deed dated 14/06/2005, executed by Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta in favour of Mrs. Rashmi Gupta.

therefore, she has lodged a complaint through E-Lost portal, Lost Report No. 1024209/2024 on 22/04/2024.

Any persons(s) finding the said original documents may please hand over the same to the undersigned or if any person has any claim in the said Property, he/she/they shall intimate the same in writing with documentary evidence to the undersigned within **7 (seven)** days of the publication of this notice, after which date no claims will be entertained.

Sd/-
Divya Vani H.K., B.A., LL.M.
Advocate
RAVI LOBO & CO.,
No. 37/7, Meanee Avenue, Tank Road,
S.C. Garden, Bangalore – 560 042
Tel: 080-41123363

Place: Bangalore
Dated: 13.04.2025

प्लाज़्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान
INSTITUTE FOR PLASMA RESEARCH
इंदिरा ब्रिज के पास, भाट गांव, गांधीनगर–382428, गुजरात, भारत
Near Indira Bridge, Bhat Village, Gandhinagar - 382 428, Gujarat, India
Web : www.ipr.re.in

विज्ञापन सं. / ADVT. NO. 5/2025

प्लाज़्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान पी.एच.डी. (भौतिक)-2025 के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है
IPR INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR Ph.D. in (PHYSICS)-2025

प्लाज़्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान (आईपीआर), परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग, भारत सरकार के अंतर्गत एक प्रमुख वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान संस्थान है, जो भाट गाँव, गांधीनगर, गुजरात में स्थित है । जीआईडीसी, गांधीनगर, गुजरात में औद्योगिक प्लाज़्मा प्रौद्योगिकी सुविधा केन्द्र (FCIPT) और गुवाहटी, असम में प्लाज़्मा भौतिकी केंद्र (CPP) में इसकी प्रयोगशालाओं का विस्तार हैं । आईपीआर मूलभूत प्लाज़्मा भौतिकी, चुंबकीय परिरोध संलयन और प्लाज़्मा के तकनीकी अनुप्रयोग के लिए अनुसंधान और विकास गतिविधियों में शामिल है । प्रयोगात्मक, कम्प्यूटेशनल और सैद्धांतिक प्लाज़्मा भौतिकी में डॉक्टरेट अनुसंधान करने के लिए अत्यधिक प्रेरित छात्रों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

Institute for Plasma Research (IPR), located at Bhat Village, Gandhinagar, Gujarat is a premier scientific research institute under the Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India. IPR also has extension laboratories at the Facilitation Center for Industrial Plasma Technologies (FCIPT) in GIDC, Gandhinagar, Gujarat and at the Center for Plasma Physics (CPP) at Guwahati, Assam. IPR is involved in research and development activities devoted to basic plasma physics, magnetic confinement fusion and technological application of plasmas. Applications are invited from highly motivated students to pursue doctoral research in experimental, computational and theoretical plasma physics.

इच्छुक उम्मीदवार विस्तृत विज्ञापन, पात्रता मानदंड और आवेदन प्रक्रिया के लिए वेबसाइट http://www.ipr.res.in/documents/jobs_career.html (विज्ञापन सं. 5/2025) पर जा सकते हैं।

Interested candidates may visit the website *http://www.ipr.res.in/documents/jobs_career.html* (ADVT. NO. 5/2025) for detailed Advertisement, eligibility criteria and application procedure.

ऑनलाइन आवेदन लिंक 13 अप्रैल 2025 को सुबह 10:00 बजे सक्रिय हो जाएगा । ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने की अंतिम तिथि 25 अप्रैल 2025 (शाम 05:00 बजे) है।

Online application link will be activated on 13th April 2025 at 10:00 AM. The last date for filling online application is 25th April 2025(05:00 PM).

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-Tender Notice No. ERS/SG/CN/2025-OT-03,
Single Packet System

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Ernakulam, II Floor, Eastern Entry, Ernakulam Junction, Karshaka Road, Kochi - 682 012 invites e-tenders for the following work:.

Item No.1	**Name of the work:** Signalling Interlocking and Telecommunication works in connection with closing of LC No. 12 at Km: 16/200-300 between Trippunittura & Mulanturutti Stations and LC No. 14 at Km: 22/300-400 at Guruvayur alongwith signalling interlocking alterations at Mulanturutti station & at Guruvayur Station in Thiruvananthapuram division			
1	2	3	4	5
Sl. No.	Approximate Cost of Work (₹)	Bid Security (₹)	Last Date of e-submission of Tender / Date of Opening of the Tender	Period of Completion (Months)
1	**22.97 lakhs**	**45,900.00**	**06.05.2025 at 10.30 hrs**	**05 Months**

Note: 1. Value of tender inclusive of GST as per GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time for the supply and services by the tenderer.
2. Visit **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed terms and conditions and corrigendum if any.

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Ernakulam - 682 016

झारखण्ड सरकार
झारखण्ड खनिज क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकार, धनबाद।
(लुबी सर्कुलर रोड, हीरापुर धनबाद 826001)

ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सूचना अति अल्पकालिन (प्रथम आमंत्रण)

ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या – 04/JMADA/2025-26 धनबाद, दिनांक – **11-04-2025**

1	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम/पदनाम :-	प्रबंध निदेशक, झारखंड खनिज क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकार, धनबाद।
2	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	16-04-2025 समय 02.00 बजे अपराहन् तक
3	निविदा प्राप्ति (ऑन लाईन बिडींग) की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	05-05-2025 समय 04.00 बजे अपराहन् तक
4	सरकार के सचिव, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं ई–गवर्नेंस, झारखंड मंत्रालय के ज्ञापांक–120 दिनांक–03.10.2023 के आलोक में विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन का राशि ऑनलाईन जमा करने का अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	05-05-2025 समय 04.00 बजे अपराहन् तक
5	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	06-05-2025 समय 05:00 बजे अपराहन्
6	तकनीकी बिड खोलने का स्थान	तकनीकी सदस्य का कार्यालय झारखण्ड खनिज क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकार, धनबाद।
7	निविदा आमंत्रित करने के सम्बन्ध में विशेष जानकारी हेतु सम्पर्क संख्या–	**9939842423 / 8789532628**

	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू० में)	अग्रधन की राशि 2%	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रू० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	**Supplying, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 3 MVA 11KV /3.3KV Copper Wound Out Door Type Power Transformer & its allied work at Damodar Head Works Jamadoba under JMADA, Dhanbad.**	**1,29,33,000.00**	**2,58,700.00**	**10,000.00**	**06 माह**

नोट – केवल ई निविदा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे।
- उपरोक्त किसी तिथि को अवकाश घोषित होने पर अगले कार्य दिवस की तिथि को माना जायेगा।
- ऐसे संवेदक जिन्हें नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग, झारखंड का निबंधन प्राप्त नहीं है वे भी निविदा में भाग ले सकते है बशर्ते कि वैसे सफल निविदादाता को एकरारनामा के पूर्व नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग, झारखण्ड, में निबंधन पत्र प्राप्त कर लेना होगा।
- निविदा की सूचना तथा नियम शर्ते की जानकारी कार्यपालक अभियंता (जलापूर्ति), झारखंड खनिज क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकार, धनबाद कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। निविदा की जानकारी के लिए वेवसाईट http://jharkhandtender.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

ह0/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
झमाडा, धनबाद।

PR 350274 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 25-26 (D)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Procurement Tender Notice No: HE-01-2025-26

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following work:

Sl.No.	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	Provision of deficient water coolers at various Railway stations (NSG-2 to NSG-5) over Hubballi division.	Rs. 54,60,144.00
2	Replacement of damaged, unserviceable LT cables between Sonalium station and Dudhsagar station and connected works under Hubballi station.	Rs. 21,46,301.00
3	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for 02 Nos. Escalators at PF No. 1 of Belgaum Railway Station for 05 years.	Rs. 35,35,962.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 07.05.2025**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/General/ Hubballi
PUB/26/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: 01/MD.43/SPL RADIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS/ CH/UBL/25-26

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
"Expression of Interest" (EOI) from the interested and reputed Local Diagnostic Centers for entering into tie up for providing services of Radiological Investigations USG / CT / MRI / PET Scan and other special Investigations to Railway beneficiaries / patients of Central Hospital, South Western Railway, Gadag Road, Hubli, as per CGHS 2014 Bengaluru Rates & updated 2021 CGHS rate list and as and when revised or AIIMS rates. (Period of tie up 02 years).	Rs. 1,02,00,000/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 02.05.2025**
For details log on: swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Medical Director / Central Hospital / Hubballi
PUB/27/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

झारखण्ड सरकार ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर
ई–अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- **09/2024-25/RIII/STPKG/RWD/EE/JSR** दिनांक :- **12.04.2025**
कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्रस	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल संख्या
1	RWD/EE/JSR/ STPKG/07/2024-25	निरूडीह से पलासबानी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–1 .700 कि0मी0)	77,06,600.00	सतहत्तर लाख छः हजार छः सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह	चतुर्थ
		आर0ई0ओ0 रोड से कोलाबरीया तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–1.350 कि0मी0)	1,26,95,800.00	एक करोड़ छब्बीस लाख पन्चानवे हजार आठ सौ रू0 मात्र		
		बेसारपहाड़ी से चटानीपानी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–7.000 कि0मी0)	4,80,48,500.00	चार करोड़ अस्सी लाख अड़तालीस हजार पाँच सौ रू0 मात्र		
		आर0ई0ओ0 रोड से चिंगरा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–1.850 कि0मी0)	1,39,61,200.00	एक करोड़ उन्चालीस लाख एकसठ हजार दो सौ रू0 मात्र		
		L063 आर0ई0ओ0 पथ से जामबनी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–1.825 कि0मी0)	94,72,500.00	चौरानवे लाख बहत्तर हजार पाँच सौ रू0 मात्र		
		कुल	**9,18,84,600.00**	नौ करोड़अठारह लाख चौरासी हजार छः सौ रू0 मात्र		

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:– 13.04.2025।
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:– 29.04.2025 अपराहन् 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 30.04.2025 अपराहन् 5.00 बजे ।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :–कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर, ब्लॉक–करनडीह, थाना–परसुडीह, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, पिन–831002।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0657–2298902।
8. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

PR 350261 REO(25-26)D

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Tender Notice No.: SWRTMYPR2025WT02 Dated: 08.04.2025

Item of work	Approx. Value
Supply, Fixing, Commissioning & Maintaining during the warranty period of New set of Tamping units of MPT/MFI machine (03 set).	Rs. 2,50,71,483.60

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 07.05.2025**

Tender Notice No.: SWRTMYPR2025WT03 Dated: 08.04.2025

Item of work	Approx. Value
Procurement of Hydraulic hoses with suitable end fittings duly crimping the hoses for the use of Track machines in South Western Railway.	Rs. 91,73,969.00/-

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 07.05.2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Executive Engineer/Track Machines/ Bengaluru
PUB/32/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

From Page One

T.N. notifies 10 Acts after SC deems assent implicit

As per the notification, the Acts of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly deemed to have received the assent of the Governor on November 18, 2023, include: The Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Act, 2020, which changes the University's name to The Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University; The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Act, 2022; The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University (Amendment) Act, 2022; The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai (Amendment) Act, 2022; The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (Amendment) Act, 2022; The Tamil University (Second Amendment) Act, 2022; The Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Act, 2023; The Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Amendment) Act, 2023; and The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2022.

"The Supreme Court verdict has brought what was outside judicial review, under judicial review, and introduced a provision of deemed approval in case of delay in assent for Bills. This verdict is applicable across India," senior advocate N.L. Rajah explained.

However, he added that any future application of the principles laid down by the Supreme Court will depend on the factual matrix of the case to which it is sought to be applied, as the judgment of the top court arises from certain facts peculiar to this case. "Of course, it is a moot point whether a Constitutional issue could have been decided by a two-member Bench when the Constitution prescribes that it must be decided by a five-member Bench," Mr. Rajah said.

Centre likely to file review petition in SC

The SC judgement came in response to a November 2023 petition filed by the Tamil Nadu government against the State's Governor indefinitely withholding assent to ten Bills passed by the State Assembly, some as early as 2020.

A second government official said that the review was necessary as the Centre's points were not reflected strongly enough during the arguments in the case.

"The judgement paves the way for restoring a 'lapsed' Bill. Per the Constitution, once the Bill has been returned, or assent to it withheld by the President, the legislation lapses. It has to be reintroduced in the Assembly for passage, with the amendments suggested or without, as desired by the Assembly. The April 8 judgement does not consider this ground," said the second government official.

The Tamil Nadu government notified the 10 Acts in the Government Gazette on Saturday, following the Supreme Court's ruling that they were "deemed" to have received assent.

Violence over Waqf Act leaves 3 dead in Bengal

She accused some political parties of trying to misuse religion for political gain. "Don't fall into their trap...Everyone should maintain peace and harmony – this is my appeal," she said.

Earlier in the day, Director General of Police (DGP) Rajeev Kumar said at a press conference in Kolkata that there had been reports of communal violence in the Jangipur area of Murshidabad, triggered by rumours. The DGP said the State police were "not action shy and will take strong possible action against mischievous elements".

Railway services were disrupted on Friday after thousands of people squatted on railway tracks in the Suti and Samshergunj areas in Murshidabad. A mob vandalised railway property with stones in the Azimgarh area.

The district has been on the boil over protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act for the past several days. Violence was reported on April 8 at Jangipur, when protesters clashed with the police. Over 22 people were arrested on the following day for committing violence. Other parts of the State, including Kolkata, have been witnessing protests over the Waqf (Amendment) Act.

Two militants, soldier die in J&K gunfights

Official sources said the militants were hiding in the upper reaches of Chhatru that still has snow-capped ridges and valleys. The army suspects the presence of more militants in the region.

The army said helicopters were deployed to drop special forces and night sights, and drones were pressed to maintain surveillance.

"We ensured real-time surveillance," it said.

"Until terrorists are eliminated, the operations will go on. The people of the area have given full support to security forces. These operations show good coordination of security forces," Shridhar Patil, Director General of the Kishtwar-Doda Ramban range, said.

He said no slain terrorist has been identified so far.

"As and when they are identified, details will be shared. The details of the operation, which we launched on the 9th [of April] based on specific information, are now at the conclusion stage."

Deploy Central forces in Murshidabad, says court

They should work with West Bengal Police to restore normalcy, says Division Bench after three were killed in clashes, protests over the Waqf law; six companies of BSF are already deployed

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Saturday ordered the deployment of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in Murshidabad district of West Bengal, after three persons were killed in communal clashes and protests over the newly enacted Waqf law.

At a hearing on Saturday (a court holiday), the Division Bench of Justices Soumen Sen and Raja Basu Chowdhury observed that the court could not sit with its eyes closed in such situations and that Central forces would work in coordination with the West Bengal Police to restore normalcy in the State.

A vehicle that was torched during a protest against the Waqf Amendment Act at Jangipur in Murshidabad on Saturday. ANI

BJP leader moves court

Earlier in the day, BJP MLA and Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari moved the High Court seeking the deployment of Central forces. "It's a slap to the Mamata government. It's a big slap to [Director-General of West Bengal Police] Rajeev Kumar, who is loyal to Mamata Banerjee," Mr. Adhikari said after the court order.

On Saturday, a senior police official confirmed to *The Hindu* that two people had lost their lives in the communal violence in Murshidabad, and one person had died from injuries sustained during a firing.

Currently, at least six companies of the Border Security Force have been deployed in Murshidabad, along with a large number of police personnel.

118 arrested

At least 118 people were arrested in connection with arson, destruction of public property and mob violence that unfolded at Suti and Shamsherganj in Murshidabad on Friday evening, Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order) Javed Shamim said on Saturday. Internet services have been suspended and Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita has been imposed in the region.

This incident comes on the heels of the mob violence and arson in Murshidabad's Jangipur area on April 8 over the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, leading to the arrest of at least 22 people.

'Centre closely monitoring situation, will provide aid'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Saturday said that the Centre was closely monitoring the situation in Murshidabad district of West Bengal, and assured the State all possible assistance, including deployment of additional security personnel, if necessary, according to a statement by the Union Home Ministry.

The Home Secretary held a video conference with West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and Director-General of Police Rajeev Kumar on Saturday.

Mr. Mohan said that apart from the nearly 300 BSF personnel locally available in Murshidabad, an additional five companies (around 500 personnel) had been deployed at the request of the State government.

BJP blames Mamata for 'anti-Hindu violence' in Bengal

Devesh Kumar Pandey
NEW DELHI

Pradeep Bhandari

The BJP on Saturday accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of encouraging targeted violence against Hindus within the State, allegedly occurring under the guise of protests against recent amendments to the Waqf legislation.

Speaking at a press conference, BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said that while the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill by Parliament had generated a "wave of happiness" across India, aside from some "peaceful protests", the situation in West Bengal was markedly different. He alleged that Ms. Banerjee had transformed the State – "the land of Swami Vivekananda, Syama Prasad Mukherjee, and Rabindranath Tagore" – into a "laboratory of appeasement".

"All is peaceful in neighbouring Assam and other parts of the country, but violence is happening in West Bengal because Mamata Banerjee supports it," Mr. Bhandari alleged.

Mr Bhandari further claimed specific instances of inaction: "...when a radical mob attacks Hindus in places like Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, and Jahangirpur, in a targeted manner, the police – who lathi-charge protesting teachers – remain silent."

Asserting that no police action was taken against individuals involved in violence in Murshidabad, and claiming that prior intelligence reports were available to her government, Mr. Bhandari held Ms. Banerjee responsible. He emphasised that law and order is constitutionally a State subject under the Chief Minister's purview.

He alleged that a public statement made by Ms. Banerjee after April 5, in which she opposed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, was interpreted by extremist groups as tacit support. "A message was sent to all the radical elements in West Bengal that she was supporting them," Mr Bhandari alleged.

Meitei group slams Kuki diktat against annual pilgrimage

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

'Preventing Meiteis from visiting Thangjing Hill is like making Mecca out of bounds for Muslims'

A Meitei organisation has slammed Kuki civil society groups for warning the Meitei community against embarking on their annual pilgrimage to the Thangjing Hill, which lies in a Kuki-dominated district in conflict-scarred Manipur.

The Meitei Heritage Welfare Foundation (MHWF) said that preventing the Meiteis from visiting the sacred Thangjing Hill in Churachandpur district is like stopping Hindus from undertaking a pilgrimage to Mount Kailash in Tibet, or making Mecca out of bounds for Muslims.

On April 9, six Kuki organisations issued a statement asking the non-tribal Meiteis not to cross the 'buffer zone' between the two communities for Cheirao Ching Kaba, an annual mid-April ritual of trekking up the Thangjing Hill as a part of the celebration of Cheiraoba, the Meitei New Year.

"This is a blatant attempt to deny Meiteis their fundamental rights to religious practice and freedom of movement," the MHWF said in a statement on April 11.

Meanwhile, the Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights condemned the rape and murder of young woman in Churachandpur district on April 11.

"We are deeply alarmed by the continued rise in such crimes," the organisation's general secretary Kimneihoi Lhungdim said.

ED begins possession of properties in three cities in *National Herald* case

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The assets are located in Bandra (East) Mumbai; Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Delhi; and Bisheshwar Nath Road, Lucknow. FILE PHOTO

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has served notices on the Registrars of Property in Delhi, Mumbai and Lucknow as part of the process to take possession of alleged tainted properties in the Associated Journals Limited (AJL) *National Herald* money laundering case, the agency said on Saturday.

A notice has also been served to Jindal South West Projects Limited for the transfer of monthly rent to the agency.

The proceedings for the possession of assets were initiated on April 11. The assets are located in Bandra (East) Mumbai; Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Delhi; and Bisheshwar Nath Road, Lucknow.

In the notice to Jindal South West Projects Ltd., the agency said it was occupying the seventh, eighth and ninth floors at the Bandra (E) building, and the company had to transfer the rent/lease amount every month in favour of the ED.

"These properties were attached after extensive investigation by the ED, which revealed significant generation, possession, and use of proceeds of crime to the tune of ₹988 crore," the agency said.

According to the ED, its probe commenced in 2021 based on an order issued on June 26, 2014 by the Metropolitan Magistrate, Patiala House Court, Delhi, following a private complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy.

Security forces kill 3 Maoists in Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

At least three Maoists were killed by security forces in an anti-Naxal operation in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Saturday, said the police.

A senior police officer said that the forces had acted on a tip-off about the presence of Maoists in the forest in Indravati. A joint team of the District Reserve Guard untis in Bijapur and Dantewada, the Special Task Force, and the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action or CoBRA (a specialised unit within the Indian Central Reserve Police Force) took part in the operation and had a gunfight with the Maoists, the officer added.

"A large quantity of weapons and explosives were recovered... The dead Naxalites are being identified," the officer said.

Telangana-model caste count in Bihar if Congress is voted to power in State: Jignesh

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Jignesh Mevani

If voted to power, Congress will conduct a caste census in Bihar, along the lines of the one done in Telangana, Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee working president and MLA Jignesh Mevani said on Saturday.

"Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge*ji* and pioneer of social justice Rahul Gandhi*ji* are constantly demanding caste census [in the country]. They believe that if the people standing in the last row of the society are to be given social and economic justice, then not only is their census necessary, but it is also necessary to determine their rights according to their population," he said while addressing the press at the party office in Patna.

Mr. Mevani also accused Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of fooling Dalits and backward classes in the country. "On one hand, the Modi government at the Centre refuses to conduct caste census, while on the other hand, the Janata Dal (United) government of Bihar pretends to conduct a caste census, but deprives the Dalits, tribals, backward, extremely backward, minorities and economically weaker sections of Bihar of its benefits," he said.

Ahead of the Assembly election in Bihar, Congress has put its youth leaders at the forefront. The party's student wing national incharge Kanhaiya Kumar has also been given more responsibility in Bihar.

Also present at the meet were Bihar Congress incharge Krishna Allavaru, Congress Legislative Party leader Shakeel Ahmad Khan and MLC Madan Mohan Jha.

3 teachers continue hunger strike, call for Bengal govt. to list 'tainted' candidates

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The three teachers continuing their hunger strike outside the SSC office in Kolkata on Saturday. DEBASISH BHADURI

A day after West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu assured protesting teachers that a list of "tainted" and "untainted" candidates would be published by April 21, three aggrieved teachers continued their hunger strike outside the West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC) office in Kolkata on Saturday.

Suman Biswas, Pratap Kumar Saha, and Pankaj Ray were among the 26,000 people who lost their jobs after the Supreme Court order last week annulled the appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff in West Bengal government schools.

"A list of untainted and deserving candidates are already present with the SSC; ask them to publish it, we will immediately call off the hunger strike," Mr. Biswas said.

BJP MP Sukanta Majumdar said the State government had over two years to submit the list of tainted and untainted candidates but failed to do so.

"They have created this whole complication and created trouble for the teachers and now they are acting as saviours," he charged.

'President ought to consult SC on Bills referred by Governor'

In the judgment setting a three-month deadline for the President to decide whether or not to assent to State Bills that are referred to her, the top court says such consultation will remove any apprehensions of bias or *mala fides* by the Centre

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in its 414-page April 8 judgment in the State of Tamil Nadu vs the Governor of Tamil Nadu and other parties, released late on Friday, has set a three-month deadline for the President to decide whether or not to assent to State Bills referred to her by a Governor.

The clock will begin ticking from the day the Governor referred the Bill to the President for her consideration.

"In case of any delay beyond this period, appropriate reasons would have to be recorded and conveyed to the State concerned," the court held. The States, in turn, must be cooperative to any queries or suggestions from the Centre on the Bills.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan declared that the President ought to, as a measure of prudence, seek the Supreme Court's advice on Bills reserved by a Governor for her consideration on grounds of perceived unconstitutionality.

> We are of the considered view that although the option to refer a Bill to the Supreme Court under Article 143 may not be mandatory, yet the President, as a measure of prudence, ought to seek an opinion with respect to Bills on grounds of perceived unconstitutionality
>
> **JUSTICES J.B. PARDIWALA & R. MAHADEVAN**

The judgment authored by Justice Pardiwala said the need for the President to consult the Supreme Court on Bills referred to her by the Governor was necessary as there was no mechanism at the State level for Governors to refer Bills to constitutional courts for their advice or opinion.

"We are of the considered view that although the option to refer a Bill to the Supreme Court under Article 143 [of the Constitution] may not be mandatory, yet the President, as a measure of prudence, ought to seek an opinion with respect to Bills reserved for the consideration of the President on grounds of perceived unconstitutionality. This is all the more necessary as there is no mechanism at the State level for the Governor to refer Bills to the constitutional courts for their advice or opinion thereupon," the judgment observed. The judgment was based on a writ petition filed by Tamil Nadu against its Governor, R.N. Ravi. The court has held the Tamil Nadu Governor's decision to reserve 10 Bills to the President for her consideration after sitting over them for months "erroneous in law".

The President's recourse to Article 143 (under which the President can seek advice from the Supreme Court on matters of public importance or legal disputes) palliates any apprehensions of bias or *mala fides* in the Union government's approach to Bills reserved under Article 200, the court reasoned.

Sri Lankan model

In this context, Justice Pardiwala drew attention to Sri Lanka, where the President referred Bills to the Supreme Court for opinion. "If the Governor is of the opinion that a statute enacted by a provincial council is unconstitutional, then he may refer the Bill to the President, who in turn is obligated to make a reference to the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka for obtaining a pronouncement on the constitutional vires of such a Bill. Where the Supreme Court holds the statute to be constitutional, then the Governor is bound to grant assent," Justice Pardiwala detailed.

Constitutional courts cannot be precluded from making suggestions or opining about the constitutional validity of a Bill before it becomes law.

Application of judicial mind to a proposed law saves both time and public resources by preventing costly litigation and delay that naturally follows if a faulty Bill becomes a law. However, the court warned, this "approach of prevention before cure" must not be stretched to the extent that the process of reservation of a Bill for consideration of the President by itself becomes a resort for thwarting the legislative powers of the States.

Governor led by extraneous considerations in discharge of his functions, observes SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, which published its much-anticipated judgment late on Friday, declared Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's months-long delay, by withholding consent and subsequent reservation of the 10 re-passed Bills to President Droupadi Murmu for her consideration on November 28, 2023, "erroneous in law and non-est".

The court equally set aside consequential steps taken by President Murmu on the Bills as *non-est*.

The Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan said the Governor's inaction for an unduly long period of time for which these Bills were kept pending by him, and his ultimate declaration of withholding of assent coupled with the scant respect shown by him to judgments of the Supreme Court for adherence to aid and advice of the State's Council of Ministers showed "other extraneous considerations" writ large

R.N. Ravi

in the discharge of his functions. "We are left with no other option but to exercise our inherent powers under Article 142 of the Constitution for the purpose of declaring these 10 Bills as deemed to have been assented on the date when they were presented to the Governor after being reconsidered by the State legislature i.e., on November 18, 2023," the court declared.

'Tinkering with ideals'

The court reminded constitutional authorities occupying high offices that they must be guided by the values of the Constitution.

These values that are so cherished by the people of India are a result of years of struggle and sacrifice of our forefathers. "When called upon to take decisions, such authorities must not give in to ephemeral political considerations but rather be guided by the spirit that underlies the Constitution," Justice Pardiwala wrote.

If the authorities attempt to deliberately bypass the constitutional mandate, they are tinkering with the very ideals revered by its people upon which this country has been built, the apex court cautioned.

"We take this opportunity to quote Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's concluding speech in the Constituent Assembly, which is as relevant today as it was in 1949 – 'However good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot,'" Justice Pardiwala said in his judgment.

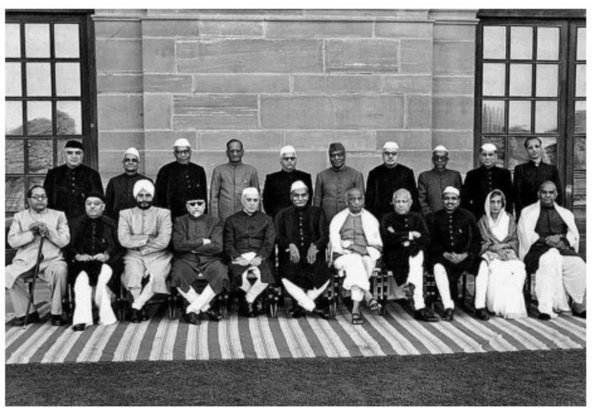
SC recalls first President's struggle over Hindu Code Bill assent in 1951

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in its Tamil Nadu Governor judgment, recalled how an infant India watched with trepidation as its first President claimed to have the power to exert his discretion and withhold assent to Bills even against the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan recounted that Dr. Rajendra Prasad expressed reservations about the Hindu Code Bill, which proposed considerable reforms in the Hindu personal law, introduced in 1951.

The President had sought to assert his independent authority to withhold assent to the legislation.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad with the members of Central Cabinet at Government House in New Delhi in January 1950. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

The Jawaharlal Nehru government had referred the issue to the first Attorney-General of India, M.C. Setalvad, for an opinion.

"Mr. Setalvad clarified that the role of the President under the Indian Constitution was analogous to that of the British monarch, and he was expected to serve as a constitutional figurehead. The Attorney General opined that the President does not possess the authority to act contrary to the advice of the Council of Ministers," Justice Pardiwala narrated in his judgment pronounced on April 8 but published late on April 11.

The judge, however, said the opinion of the Attorney-General was, with respect and magnanimity, "accepted" by the President, and the ensuing controversy between the Prime Minister and the President was laid to rest.

'Orthodox Hindu'

However, Mr. Setalvad's autobiography, *My Life - Law and Other Small Things*, suggested that his opinion had rankled Mr. Prasad, an "orthodox Hindu".

'Personal dissatisfaction, political expediency no cause for holding Bills'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held that reservation of a State Bill by a Governor for the consideration of the President on grounds such as his personal dissatisfaction, political expediency, or any other "extraneous or irrelevant considerations" is strictly impermissible by the Constitution.

A Governor's reference of a Bill to the President for these reasons would be liable to be set aside forthwith by the Constitutional courts.

The court was interpreting Article 200, which deals with the role of the Governor in giving assent to Bills.

State government can seek an expeditious decision on the Bill through the courts

"Where the reservation of a Bill by the Governor for the consideration of the President is on the grounds of peril to democracy or democratic principles or on other exceptional grounds then the Governor would be expected to make a specific and clear reference to the President properly indicating the reasons for entertaining such a belief by pinpointing the specific provisions in this regard and the consequent effect that may ensue if such a Bill were to be allowed to become a law," the judgment noted.

The Governor, while making such a reference, should also indicate his subjective satisfaction as to why the aforesaid consequences that may ensue cannot be possibly curtailed or contained by taking recourse to the constitutional courts of the country, Justice J.B. Pardiwala observed.

The State governments can challenge such a reservation on the ground of failure on the part of the Governor to furnish the necessary reasons. They can argue that the reasons indicated by the Governor in question were wholly irrelevant, *mala fide*, arbitrary, unnecessary, or motivated by extraneous considerations. The issue would be "fully justiciable" by Constitutional courts.

The government can approach the competent court with a writ of mandamus if a Governor sits on a Bill for a period exceeding the time limit of three months.

The State government can seek an expeditious decision on the Bill through the courts, provided the Governor is unable to furnish a sufficient explanation for his delay.

"Where the Governor reserves a Bill for the consideration of the President and the President, in turn, withholds assent thereto, then it shall be open to the State government to assail such an action before the Supreme Court," Justice Pardiwala has held.

Ahmedabad resolution a battle cry to defend dignity, democracy, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Following up on the Ahmedabad session of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), the party on Saturday asked its cadre to take its "Nyay Path" resolution to every household in the country.

The party also named 183 observers for Gujarat under the "*Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan*", a campaign to build its organisation in the State, which has been a BJP bastion for three decades now.

In a letter to all the chiefs of Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) and District Congress Committees (DCCs), frontal units and other office-bearers, AICC general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal termed the resolution "a battle cry for the defence of India's democracy, dignity, and diversity".

He said the Ahmedabad resolution was a visionary articulation of the Congress's ideological compass, policy direction, and unwavering commitment to the values of the Constitution, democracy, and inclusive development.

K.C. Venugopal

"Let us rise to the occasion and ensure that its message echoes in every street, town, and village of our country," Mr. Venugopal said, adding, "It is imperative that this resolution is not only understood and absorbed at all levels of our organisation but also communicated effectively to the people of India. To this end, the AICC has decided to launch a time-bound and structured campaign."

Mr. Venugopal called for an internal mobilisation of DCC presidents in the first phase, with each PCC asked to hold DCC-level orientation sessions without delay. He also asked State leaders to hold district-level Congress workers' meetings and convene a Congress Worker Sammelan. These sammelans should be inclusive of Block Congress Committee presidents, Booth Committee presidents, and leadership from frontal organisations, such as the Mahila Congress, Youth Congress, National Students' Union of India, and Seva Dal, he added.

He urged local leaders to engage with the local media, participate in media interviews, write opinion pieces, devise social media campaigns, and distribute pamphlets and manifesto inserts to explain the party's agenda to the common man.

"These pamphlets should highlight the party's vision for the future and provide a simple comparison with the failures and betrayals of the BJP/NDA regime..." he said.

Sukhbir Badal back as SAD president

The Hindu Bureau
AMRITSAR

Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday was re-elected president of the Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab. Mr. Badal stepped down from the post last November, after he was declared guilty of religious misconduct by the Akal Takht.

He was elected unanimously after his name was proposed by senior leader Balwinder Singh Bhundar. After getting elected, Mr. Badal said he would never compromise on any issue that concerns the prestige of the Panth, Punjab, and the party.

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** Please see age relaxation under Relaxation column.

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Date of commencement of online applications : 14.04.2025 (09:30 AM)
The last date for receipt of online applications : 05.05.2025 (5:00 PM)
The last date for receipt of hardcopy of applications(including far flung areas) : 15.05.2025 (5:30 PM)

(Sr. Controller of Administration)

INBRIEF

'India will be number one on 100th year of Independence'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday appealed to the youth to take inspiration from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, commemorating the 345th death anniversary of the Maratha emperor. He said that in the 100th year of Independence, India will be number one in the world. Calling the concept of self-rule the brainchild of Shivaji Maharaj, Mr. Shah said, "He ended 200 years of Mughal slavery and laid the foundation for our freedom. After 75 years of independence, we are standing strong in front of the world with all dignity. When we reach its 100th anniversary, India will be at the top."

India, U.S. tri-service HADR exercise Tiger Triumph ends

The fourth edition of the India-U.S. tri-service amphibious Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, Tiger Triumph, concluded on Friday following the completion of operations on India's eastern coast. According to the Indian Navy, the operations reflected an "enhanced degree of combined combat drills, jointmanship and interoperability achieved" between the armed forces of the two countries. "Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025 marks a significant milestone in reinforcing the shared commitment of India and the United States towards regional stability, disaster response cooperation, and enhancing interoperability between their armed forces," the Navy added.

Muslims unhappy with Waqf Act, AIUDF reminds Assam CM

The minority-based All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) said Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma should not be under the illusion that the State's Muslims would not combat the amended Waqf Act. The AIUDF reacted to the Chief Minister's claim on social media that Assam had remained peaceful "despite having nearly 40% Muslim population", and that "isolated protests in three places" against the Waqf Amendment Act did not attract more than 150 participants each. "The Chief Minister should not be under any illusion. Muslims in Assam are unhappy with the BJP's plan to snatch Waqf property from them. We will fight against the changes made in the Act legally and democratically," AIUDF general secretary Rafiqul Islam said on Saturday.

Justice Palli appointed Chief Justice for J&K, Ladakh HC

The President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, has appointed Punjab and Haryana High Court judge, Justice Arun Palli, as Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the Law Ministry said on Saturday. The appointment comes into effect from the date Justice Palli assumes charge of his office. Last week, the Supreme Court Collegium had recommended Justice Palli to be the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

SUDOKU

3	7		6			8	4	
			7		2			3
		1		4	3			2
		4						
		7		6		4		
						9		
6			9	7		5		
7			8		1			
	2	9			6		8	4

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	9	5	2	4	1	8	7
5	1	8	9	7	6	2	3	4
2	7	4	3	8	1	9	5	6
9	8	5	1	6	2	4	7	3
7	2	3	4	9	5	6	1	8
1	4	6	8	3	7	5	9	2
6	5	2	7	1	3	8	4	9
4	9	7	2	5	8	3	6	1
8	3	1	6	4	9	7	2	5

First test flight of Saras Mk2 plane expected in December 2027: official

The Mk2 plane is an upgraded version of the 14-seater Saras prototype planes that were developed by CSIR-NAL and first flew in 2004; the project was originally planned for 2026, but there has been some delays in it, says the official

Jacob Koshy
BENGALURU

Ready for take-off: Saras, the multi-purpose civilian aircraft designed by the National Aerospace Laboratories, at the Golden Jubilee Aircraft Hangar in Bengaluru. MURALI KUMAR K

The Saras Mk2, an updated version of an India-designed civilian aircraft, is set to test-fly in December 2027, Abhay Pashilkar, Director, CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), told *The Hindu*. Only after several flight tests can the plane be declared airworthy enough to be potentially bought by the Indian Air Force (IAF), which has expressed interest in buying at least 15 of these planes.

However, the major draw of the Saras Mk2, were it to prove dependable, would be as a passenger plane that can function as a 19-seater aircraft to ferry people from towns and cities where large airports and resulting infrastructure are absent. It can also be used as chartered planes or air ambulances.

The Mk2 plane is an upgraded version of the 14-seater Saras prototype planes that were developed by CSIR-NAL and first flew in 2004. However, a fatal crash that killed three IAF personnel in 2009 during a test flight significantly derailed progress. Only in 2016 was the project revived resulting in a major overhaul, including redesigning the wings of the plane, as well as repositioning the engine. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, a defence public sector body, will be involved in the manufacturing.

In 2022, at the Wings India air show in Hyderabad, the then-head of the CSIR, Shekhar Mande, had said that the first flight would likely be in June 2024 and production is expected to begin around 2026-27.

"There have been some delays in the project. This was originally planned for 2026. We have bought most of the material. The drawings have to get released and only after that we can begin manufacturing," Mr. Pashilkar said.

"The wings and some of the composites will be made in-house. Metallic parts will be outsourced, maybe some of it in HAL. We will need large vendors for manufacturing the fuselage," he said. Two prototypes of the Mk2 would be made to "speed up" the certification process. Once developed, it would take about a year for the first flight as these follow taxi trials, or ground-based runs at various speeds, Mr. Pashilkar said.

The avionics, or the electronic instrumentation in the cockpit, will be sourced from a company called Genesis. However apart from the basic avionics, there are several systems that will rely on the in-house "computer" developed at NAL.

The brake management and environmental control were also developed at NAL. The older 14-seater version, or the first Saras, will not be flying but it is being used as a "test bed" for future planes.

An aircraft having several sub-components has to comply with strict manufacturing requirement and complying with these regulatory processes led to delays in the scheduled testing of planes. Another major challenge was the availability of appropriately certified pilots, Mr. Pashilkar added.

NC failed to curb violence in Kashmir, says BJP

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

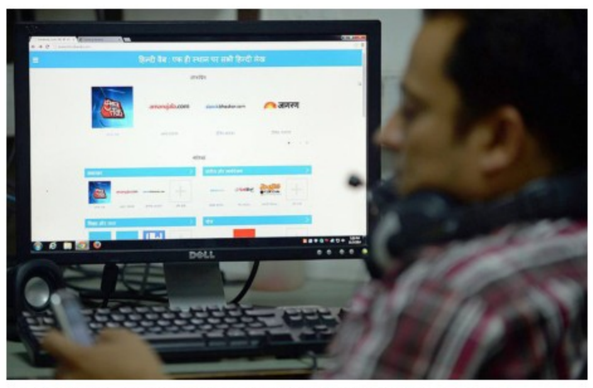
The Jammu and Kashmir BJP launched a scathing attack on the ruling National Conference (NC) on Saturday, and alleged that its leadership failed to contain violence in the erstwhile State.

"The NC government's record is full of betrayals. Shops were closed, schools remained shut, and chaos reigned when they were in power. It was during the NC's rule that schools and hospitals were set ablaze by terrorists. Over 1,000 NC workers were killed under the leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah when they held the Home Department," said senior BJP MLA and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Sunil Sharma.

He said that even the graves of NC leaders were being protected by security forces, "which speaks volumes about the peace that has been established". "Schools are functional, businesses are thriving, and the people of J&K can feel the positive change," he said.

After prolonged efforts, government sites start using Hindi Web addresses

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI



Even as large parts of the Web are in Indian languages, their addresses tend to be in the Latin script. AFP

Many Union government websites have started using a Hindi Web address, following years of efforts by supporters of Universal Acceptance (UA), a movement that has advocated for having more of the Internet be available – and accessible – in languages other than English. Two key efforts under the UA umbrella have been the so-called internationalised domain names (IDNs) and email addresses.

Now, the Ministry of Home Affairs mainly uses a Hindi URL गृहमंत्रालय.सरकार.भारत with both the Hindi and English versions of the website being available under this address – a mirror of the site under the previous English URL (mha.gov.in) remains available. The addresses swap out India's .in country code top-level domain for an Indian language equivalent.

Historically, internationalised Web and email addresses have been a challenge, as the domain name system (DNS) – and the backend processes that made browsing the web work – have been limited to American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII), the mainly English-language set of characters that early computing relied on. Non-English languages, and even many variations of the Latin script, are not a part of ASCII's character set.

Since the 1980s, researchers around the world have toiled away to mitigate these limitations, and by now, most Web browsers and commercial email services support IDNs, albeit through a backdoor: a non-Latin URL is processed as a "Punycode" shorthand that is essentially a garbled ASCII script, but users are shown the intended address.

The struggle has been adoption. Even as large parts of the Web are in Indian languages, their addresses tend to be in the Latin script. The Union government has for years tried to encourage adoption of .bharat IDNs, which include 22 regional languages aside from Hindi, such as இந்தியா for Tamil, but private pickup has been scarce.

The Union government's own websites have tried to lead by example, with many sites, such as those of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI, which operates the .in and Indian languages' domain name registry), the Ministry of Minority Affairs, having adopted Hindi Web addresses, at least for the Hindi version of their pages.

The IT Ministry and NIXI maintain Bhashanet, a dedicated portal to help government organisations add an IDN. Private adoption across other languages has been even smaller – a Google search returns less than one page of results for websites that use a இந்தியா IDN. The challenge, after all, could be in prying even Indian language sites and their users away from an English default. "I have spent seven good years working on the UA problem," Ajay Data, a technology CEO who has urged firms for several years to fix systems that don't accept IDNs, said at a recent UA event in Delhi.

"And this is my conclusion today: just raising awareness and fighting about the adoption and delivery is not the issue. We need a benefit." In other words, websites need a compelling case to add web addresses (and email addresses) in regional languages, now that many of the biggest browsers and email systems support the feature.

India votes in favour of first global carbon tax on shipping

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The deal was supported by 63 countries, including India, China and Brazil

India and 62 other countries voted in favour of the world's first-ever global carbon tax imposed on the shipping industry by the shipping agency of the United Nations.

The decision, taken at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) headquarters in London on Friday after a week of intense negotiations, aims to reduce maritime greenhouse gas emissions and promote cleaner technologies.

This is the first time global carbon tax has been imposed on an entire industry. Starting 2028, ships will have to shift to lower-emission fuels or pay a fee for the pollution they generate. The tax could generate up to $40 billion by 2030. The agreement, seen as a breakthrough for international climate policy, has also drawn criticism for failing to address the climate finance needs of developing countries.

All revenues raised from the carbon tax will be ringfenced for decarbonising the maritime sector and will not be allocated to broader climate finance efforts. Also, carbon pricing is expected to reduce shipping emissions by only 10% by 2030, far short of the IMO's own target of at least 20%.

The deal was supported by 63 countries, including China and Brazil, but opposed by oil-rich nations such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Russia, and Venezuela. The U.S. delegation did not participate in negotiations and was absent during voting.

A group of more than 60 countries, largely from the Pacific, Caribbean, Africa, and Central America, had pushed for a share of the revenues to be directed towards broader climate finance needs. These countries expressed disappointment at the final outcome. Tuvalu, speaking on behalf of the Pacific Island nations, criticised the lack of transparency in the negotiations, and said the design fails to promote a real shift to cleaner fuels.

New working group on malnutrition-induced diabetes

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

At the International Diabetes Federation's (IDF) World Diabetes Congress held in Bangkok last week, an epoch-making decision was taken, nearly 75 years after a particular type of diabetes was first recorded. Peter Schwarz, president of IDF, announced the inauguration of the Type 5 Diabetes Working Group, turning attention on to malnutrition-induced diabetes.

While Type 2 diabetes, where the global numbers are largest, can arise out of unregulated intake of food, and consequently, excess weight, Type 5 diabetes is at the polar end of the weight and nutrition spectrum, understood to be associated with undernutrition and even low weight. It was first reported in Jamaica in 1955, and then defined as J-type diabetes, and the WHO classified it in 1985 as malnutrition-related diabetes mellitus, only to remove that in 1999, citing lack of evidence of causal association with malnutrition.

However, other nations including India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Korea started reporting such cases and it is estimated that today, there are about 25 million people globally living with Type 5 diabetes. "Until this working group was formed at the IDF Congress, this form of diabetes has been largely understudied and misdiagnosed," says Nihal Thomas, Senior Professor, Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Christian Medical College, Vellore.

It is estimated that there are about 25 million people living with Type 5 diabetes globally.

Dr. Thomas has been collaborating, since 2008, with Meredith Hawkins, Director, Global Diabetes Institute, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, who has been at the forefront of research on how early-life undernutrition is a potential risk factor for development of diabetes in adult life. Both of them are chairs of the IDF Working Group.

An initial consensus meeting to lay the path towards the IDF Working Group, was held in CMC Vellore in January 2025, he explains, organised with colleague Felix Jebasingh. Here, 42 participants from across the world signed the Vellore Declaration, to promote more research and increase awareness about Type 5 diabetes among clinicians and researchers globally. "In fact, it was here that Professor Schwarz suggested the name Type 5 diabetes to distinguish it from other forms," Dr. Thomas adds.

The results of a study published in 2022 among patients at CMC, Vellore established Type 5 diabetes as a distinct metabolic entity. People with this form of 'lean diabetes' have a history of malnutrition in utero and continue to have a low BMI into adulthood, drawing in the thrifty gene theory of diabetes, Riddhi Dasgupta, a co-author on the paper, told *The Hindu* then.

Professor Hawkins explained that because of the programming in utero, these people have actually accumulated more fat than planned for by the gene, leading to the "thin-fat" phenomenon. These individuals never catch up with nutritional requirements, and remain nutritionally challenged as adults.

The Working Group has been tasked with defining diagnostic criteria for Type 5 diabetes, diagnostic and management guidelines, establishing a global registry to facilitate global research collaborations, promoting research on the pathophysiology and management and develop education modules to train healthcare professionals worldwide.

INBRIEF

After RBI's repo rate cut, BoI withdraws special FD scheme

Heralding a lower interest rate regime for bank deposits in line with a total of 50 basis points rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India in two instances, government-owned Bank of India on Saturday announced the withdrawal of its special fixed deposit scheme for 400 days where interest rate was at maximum of 7.30%. The bank has also reduced the interest rate on its short-term and medium-term fixed deposits for various maturities with effect from April 15, 2025.

MMR developer to unveil IT park named 'AI Thane'

With AI and ML being the buzz word today, real estate developer Saptashree Group has announced the unveiling of a commercial real estate project, an IT Park called AI Thane, to attract tech savvy tenants and investors.
The project will have Mumbai Metropolitan Region's (MMR) first AI-powered human less parking ecosystem for effortless parking for office goers, the developer said. The project will be situated in the business district of Wagle Estate.

IPO-bound Zepto appoints Bharti's Akhil Gupta to board

Quick commerce firm Zepto has appointed Bharti Enterprises vice-chairman Akhil Gupta as an independent director to its board. The naming of an independent director comes at a time when the company is looking to file for an IPO. Zepto, which recently flipped its base back to India from Singapore, has been on a fund-raising spree. The company has raised $1.35 billion till date, including $350 million from Motilal Oswal, and Ranjan Pai's Claypond Capital.

Business jet owners wrestle with Adani over eviction notice

Mumbai airport asks them to shift, imposes ₹20 crore parking fee; BAOA says parking is an aeronautical service determined by the tariff regulator

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Some of Mumbai's corporate titans such as Essar Group, Aditya Birla Group, JSW Steel and Taj Group are fuming over an eviction order targeting their business jets at the Adani-owned Chhatrapati Shivaji Mumbai International Airport (CSMIA). Industry insiders claim the move is a strong-arm tactic to force them to relocate to the soon-to-open Navi Mumbai airport, also under Adani's control.

Adding fuel to fire, Navi Mumbai airport has decided to levy a ₹20 crore parking stand fee, plus an annual fee, a rate which some call "illegal", arguing that only the tariff regulator has the authority to fix such charges. The move has also worried chartered plane service providers who offer private air travel. They said clients still preferred the old Mumbai airport because of its proximity to posh areas of the city known for its traffic jams.

This means charter operators will have to drop them there and fly to Navi Mumbai for parking and as a result, there will be a 30% rise due to extra fuel costs and additional expenses for using two airports.

A spokesperson of the Adani Airport Holding Limited (AAHL) told *The Hindu*, the relocation was necessitated to develop and improve capacity at CSMIA. It maintains that the fees for parking stands would be determined through an open bidding process, based on market demand and other factors. The AAHL is the largest airport operator in the country with eight airports in its fold that record 23-25% passenger traffic in the country. In other words, one in four air travellers make use of its airports.

On March 30, Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) handed over termination letters to several corporate houses to vacate the parking space used by them by July 31, 2025 for the construction of a taxiway for aircraft. The airport operator said this was necessary for carrying out airport development works that include the construction of a parallel taxiway as well as enhancement of one of the two runways.

The Business Aircraft Operators' Association (BAOA) responded asserted they were not squatters occupying parking space in an unauthorised manner, but paying the prescribed rental. They said the eviction was contrary to principles governing public infrastructure management.

BAOA has written to the tariff regulator Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA), demanding that CSMIA raise its parking capacity, which it says is a 'critical requirement' and that the cost of relocation must not be imposed on business jets. They also demanded a viable alternative at no additional cost.

Essar, Aditya Birla and JSW didn't respond to emails. *The Hindu* was unable to reach AERA Chairman for comment.

No parking

Mumbai's corporate titans are fuming over the eviction order targeting their business jets at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport

- AAHL spokesperson says relocation is necessitated for development work and improving capacity at the airport
- Business Aircraft Operators' Association asserts they are paying the prescribed rental
- Industry body seeks viable alternative during relocation at no additional cost to the operators

NPCI: UPI services restored, monitoring situation closely

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) informed late on Saturday night that the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services had been stable since late afternoon and that they continued to monitor the situation closely. Earlier around noon, the payments interface was host to "intermittent technical issues" which were resulting in transactions being declined. This was across several banks and platforms.

Saturday's outage was the second such occurrence in April. This is excluding the interruption on April 1, wherein banks and payment platforms experienced procedural issues owing to technical adjustments with the closing of the financial year. The other outage took place on April 2. Users of the UPI payments server of some banks had experienced some latency for a brief period of time. Services were, restored in both instances.

The outage was first observed around 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES /ISTOCKPHOTO

Afternoon peak

Outage monitoring website Downdetector, which relies on self-reporting of such occurrences from concerned users, pointed to the outage first being observed around 11:30 a.m. The numbers peaked around 1 p.m. by when as many as 2,400 people had reported about experiencing inconveniences. The reports, however, began shrinking around 3 p.m.

'India has the potential to be a key player in global auto supply chain'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

As the world transitions toward electric mobility, autonomous driving, advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), the internet of things (IoT), and sustainable production, the Indian automotive sector can emerge as a key player in the global value chain (GVC), according to a report by NITI Aayog.

While the local automotive industry, having made significant strides to position India as the world's fourth-largest automobile producer after China, the U.S. and Japan, its share in the global traded auto component market remains modest at just 3% ($20 billion), reflecting untapped potential and underlying challenges, the report laments.

"With a near-neutral trade balance and a cumulative cost disability of nearly 10% compared with competitors like China, India's auto component sector faces structural hurdles that impede its competitiveness," as per the report. These included supply chain inefficiencies, and high material and equipment costs.

Suman K. Bery. ANI

In a message for the report, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman K. Bery said, "The COVID-19 pandemic revealed supply chain weaknesses, while recent geopolitical uncertainties and resulting disruptions have driven manufacturers to seek more reliable and cost-effective production hubs."

MSME exporters stare at multiple risks over U.S. tariffs

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Making hay: Garment buyers who are shifting orders from China to India are said to be asking the goods for China prices. FILE PHOTO

When U.S. President Donald Trump announced retaliatory tariffs on April 2, the 26% tariff on India surprised many exporters.

Of the total merchandise exports from India in 2023-2024, close to 18% of the shipments were to the U.S. and a substantial portion of these are made in MSME clusters such as Coimbatore and Tiruppur.

The retaliatory tariff led to anxiety and uncertainty among both U.S. buyers and Indian suppliers and discussions commenced on prices, new suppliers, cancellation of orders, etc. The 90-day pause has given some respite and hope, though the risks of unpredictability continue.

BKS Textiles, which is located almost 45 km from Coimbatore city, sells bed spreads, pillow covers, napkins, etc., to a dozen buyers in the U.S.

Its managing director M. Senthil Kumar said orders started declining for the past almost three months, anticipating the tariffs.

"U.S. buyers thought it [the tariff] will not harm India. But the 27% announcement came as a twist. One of the customers immediately wanted to shift the sourcing to Turkey that had a lesser tariff. Then, the U.S. President announced a 10% baseline tariff. Though there is no request for a price cut now or shifting of orders, the threat is still there."

Executive director of KPR Mill C.R. Anandakrishnan said that while the urgent shipments had gone, the others were on hold for want of clarity. For instance, the existing duty varies for crew neck and collar neck t-shirts. "We do not know whether the new duty is 10% in addition to these tariffs." Further, one of the buyers has asked for sharing of the additional cost, he said.

According to V. Elangovan, managing director of SNQS International in Tiruppur, there are garment buyers who are shifting orders from China to India. "But, they are asking for the goods at the Chinese prices, which is 10% to 15% lesser, and rushing of shipments within 90 days."

Ajoy Thipaiah, proprietor of Kerehaklu Estate in Karnataka, which ships two-three containers of specialty coffee to the U.S., said, "We have a tie up with a roaster who is a distributor in the U.S. Every season, when the harvest starts, we reach a price agreement." "When the retaliatory tariff was announced, there was a dilemma and the distributor said he cannot take the full burden. Now, the rate is reduced to 10% and we will ship the entire quantity in the 90 days," he added.

In some cases, the tariffs are bringing in new orders. Alphacraft, an aluminium foundry and machine shop in Coimbatore, has four customers in the U.S. Ramesh Muthuramalingam, its managing director, said, "We were paying 2.5% duty and competing with China. Two months ago, we lost an order from a U.S. buyer to China. On Thursday, the buyer shifted the order from China to our factory. We are investing in capex and it will continue. If the Indian government is able to manage the current situation effectively, India will get more orders," he said.

Rajesh Doraiswamy, joint managing director at Salzer Electronics, which employs 1,500 workers at its factories, said, "We seem to be stepping back to the pre-globalisation times." However, there are reasons for gains for Indian exporters in the medium to long term. Labour cost constitutes 14-15% of the product (that are made by Salzer) price when made in India. This will be almost 40% if the electrical and engineering items are made in the U.S. So, there is very little chance of production moving to the U.S., he said. The exporters added that the disturbances to the financial markets and potential slowdown in demand in the U.S. after the 90-day pause period were additional risks.

Further, import of Chinese goods may increase in India, they said.

Debt mutual fund schemes dominate in FY25

Suresh P. Iyengar
MUMBAI

Debt mutual funds have delivered better returns than high-risk equity schemes, thanks to the uncertainty triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the U.S. tariffs.

Equity MF schemes across all categories have delivered a return of 6% last fiscal, while that of debt MFs were 8% (excluding liquid and overnight).

In fact, the one-year return of 9.6% from Gilt 10Yr Constant Duration fund was much higher than all categories of equity funds except for thematic pharma and international funds, which gave 15% and 9.8% returns, respectively.

Interestingly, the return of 7% and 5% delivered by small- and large-cap funds were lower than most debt funds. However, most investors were constantly betting big on equity schemes and ignored other asset classes. Inflows into equity schemes more than doubled last fiscal to ₹4.17 lakh crore against ₹1.84 lakh crore in FY24.

In contrast, inflows into debt funds were up last fiscal at ₹1.38 lakh crore against a net outflow of ₹23,098 crore in FY24.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Correction

A report on TCS Q4 FY25 earnings on April 11 wrongly stated Aarthi Subramanian as having been appointed president and CEO. Ms. Subramanian was appointed president and chief operating officer, TCS.

THE HINDU GROUP
WHERE OTHERS PUT A FULL STOP,
we put a comma.
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AI
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Venom characteristics of Russell's viper linked to local climate

The Hindu Bureau

Local climate can be used to predict the venom characteristics of Russell's viper, a deadly snake that is widespread in India, helping clinicians to provide targeted therapies for snake bite victims, according to a study published by IISc researchers on April 10 in the journal *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*.

Russell's viper (*Daboia russelii*) is found across the Indian subcontinent and is responsible for over 40% of snake bite-related deaths in India each year. Its venom is extremely variable, and snake bites cause different symptoms in different regions of India.

The toxic effects of snake venom are caused by the concentrations of different enzymes, which can be influenced by many factors, including prey availability and climate. However, the factors driving variation in Russell's viper venom are unknown.

To investigate, researchers analysed venom samples from 115 snakes collected in 34 locations across India.

They tested the activity of venom toxins, including enzymes that break down proteins, phospholipids, and amino acids. Next, they used historical climate data to understand the relationship between venom composition and the local climate where the snakes were caught. They found that temperature and rainfall partly explained regional variation in snake venom composition.

Protease activity showed the closest relationship to climate variables, whereas the activity of amino acid oxidases was unaffected by climate. Snakes in drier regions of India tended to have higher protease activity. The researchers used this data to create a map of expected venom types across Russell's viper's range in India, which could be used to predict the clinical symptoms of snake bites in different regions.

The venom maps developed in this study "can guide the deployment of targeted therapies and treatment protocols across the biogeographically diverse Indian subcontinent and improve clinical treatment outcomes of *D. russelii* envenoming", the authors write.

'Climatic conditions'

"Recent studies from our lab have shed light on the influence of biotic factors, such as developmental shifts in diet, on Russell's viper venom composition and toxicity. However, the effects of abiotic or environmental factors remained unstudied. Here, we highlight, for the first time, the role of climatic conditions, such as temperature, humidity, and rainfall, in driving the biochemical functions of Russell's viper venoms," Dr. Kartik Sunagar from the Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, and the corresponding authors say in a release.

Study finds a shift in peak time of maximum rainfall

The peak time of maximum rainfall in the Indo-Gangetic Plain has advanced by two-four hours during 2011-2020, the peak time of maximum rainfall has delayed by one-two hours in the west-central Indian region

R. Prasad

A study that examined the spatial rainfall trends across India has found that the amount of rainfall per day in certain parts of India has increased during the last decade, 2011-20, compared with the previous decade (2001-2010), while certain other parts have witnessed a reduction in the rainfall amount. The study has used the GSMaP-ISRO data to arrive at this conclusion. The study has also found that the timing of peak rainfall has shifted in different ways across certain Indian regions during the last decade (2011-2020) compared with the earlier decade (2001-2010).

The west-central region received 2 mm per day more rainfall between 2011 and 2020
Spatial rainfall trends across India
Quantum of rainfall per day in certain parts of India has increased during 2011-2020
Besides west-central region, the Indo-Gangetic Plain and southernmost parts of India also experienced slightly increased rainfall per day between 2011 and 2020
The eastern region received slightly less rainfall of about 1 mm per day during the period 2011-2020
The slight increase in daily rainfall over the west-central region appears to be linked to increased vegetation
There has also been a significant increase in soil moisture content over west central India in 2011-2020
The peak time of maximum rainfall in the Indo-Gangetic Plain has advanced by two-four hours
In the west-central region, the peak time of maximum rainfall has delayed by one-two hours
Aerosol loading is high in the Indo-Gangetic Plain compared with the west-central region

The study, which has been published in the *Geophysical Research Letters* on March 17, 2025, used the GSMaP-ISRO data; GSMaP stands for Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation. "The GSMaP-ISRO is a precipitation product specifically for the Indian subcontinent, which was developed through an agreement between ISRO and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)". Precipitation data from GSMaP-ISRO are available from March 2000 onwards and are available at a very fine resolution of 0.1 x 0.1 degree latitude/longitude grid with a temporal resolution of one hour.

The study found that west-central India experienced a slight increase in rainfall during the last decade (2011-2020) compared to the previous decade (2001-2010). The increase in rainfall in the west-central region during the period 2011-2020 was around 2 mm per day. Besides the west-central region, the Indo-Gangetic Plain and the southernmost parts of the country had also experienced slightly increased rainfall per day. In contrast, the eastern region received slightly less rainfall of about 1 mm per day during the period 2011-2020. The scenario was different during the previous decade. From 2001 to 2010, the northeastern and eastern parts experienced 1-2 mm more rainfall per day, while southern and central regions faced a decline. "Though the Indo-Gangetic Plain and the southernmost parts of the country experienced slightly more rainfall per day, it was less than what the west-central region had received," says Dr. Kandula V. Subrahmanyam from the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC), ISRO, Hyderabad, and the corresponding author of the paper.

The slight increase in daily rainfall over the west-central region appears to be linked to increased vegetation. The study found an increase in spatial vegetation cover over west-central India during the last decade compared with the previous decade. The increase in vegetation cover over west-central India is reflected in the increase in the average normalised difference vegetation index (NDVI) value from around 0.2 to 0.4. NDVI is used for quantifying vegetation greenness and is useful in understanding vegetation density. "The time series of NDVI in west-central India, where the rainfall is increasing, shows a significant increase in vegetation growth over time," he says. "Increased vegetation leads to increased transpiration by plants, which releases water vapour into the atmosphere. During the summer monsoon period, the evapotranspiration process occurring because of vegetation plays a crucial role."

Along with an increase in vegetation cover, there has been a significant increase in soil moisture content over west-central India in the recent decade (2011-2020) compared with the previous period (2001-2010), while the eastern region showed a notable decrease during the same period. Like increased vegetation, an increase in soil moisture content is also strongly and positively correlated with rainfall.

"Another important aspect uncovered by our study is the shift in the timing of maximum precipitation or peak time of maximum rainfall during a 24-hour period," Dr. Subrahmanyam says. "In general, the peak time of maximum rainfall in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal is in the morning, while in the case of inland, the peak time of maximum rainfall is in the afternoon." The study found that compared with the previous decade, the peak time of maximum rainfall in the Indo-Gangetic Plain has advanced by two-four hours, while in the west-central region, the peak time of maximum rainfall has been delayed by one-two hours.

The occurrence and timing of maximum rainfall is influenced by the changes in the amount of aerosols or aerosol loading. "In the case of the Indo-Gangetic Plain, aerosol loading is high compared with the west-central region. More aerosol loading leads to early peaking of rainfall," says Dr. Subrahmanyam.

Previous studies have shown that in polluted conditions, heavy rainfall peaks earlier, and the maximum rainfall peaks approximately six hours earlier compared to clean days in Beijing."Higher aerosol loading may be responsible for the early peak rainfall over the Indo-Gangetic Plain, while the relatively lower aerosol causing late peak rainfall over west-central India during the last decade (2011-2020)," he says.

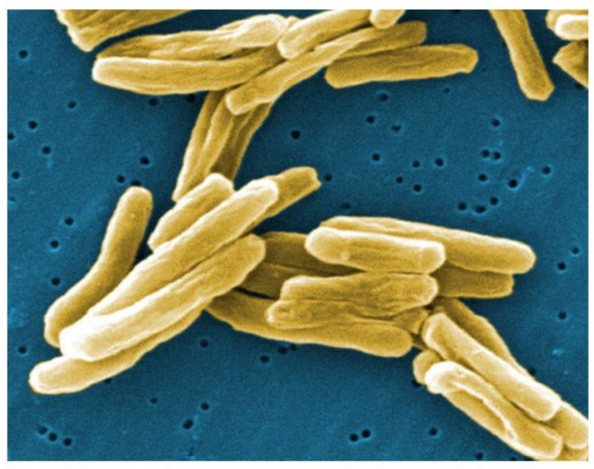
Quicker, inexpensive indigenous TB test developed

R. Prasad

Researchers at the Thiruvananthapuram-based Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) have developed and tested a novel, cost-effective, real-time LAMP (rt-LAMP) assay for early diagnosis of TB. Much like GeneXpert and Truenat, the rt-LAMP assay too is a molecular test with high sensitivity and specificity. The rt-LAMP assay was able to detect TB DNA even when only 10 copy numbers were present per microlitre in a sample.

The main handicap that prevented the use of LAMP for TB diagnosis so far was the inability of using any dye, as dyes generally inhibit reaction leading to false negatives. Researchers at SCTIMST have overcome this challenge by turning to a fluorescent dye Syto 16, which is routinely used in labs for studying cells and other biological samples. And unlike RT-PCRs that require three different temperature settings to complete a test, the rt-LAMP test works at a single temperature. Since a fluorescent dye is used, the amplification can be measured not at the end of the run but every minute.

"With six primers used for amplification compared with two in the case RT-PCRs, the rate of amplification is high, and hence results of positive samples can be obtained in 10-20 minutes," says Dr. Anoopkumar Thekkuveettil from SCTIMST and the corresponding author of a paper published in *Scientific Reports*. "Since all six primers need to bind to the DNA for amplification to begin, the rt-LAMP assay has very high specificity." Since no probe is used unlike in the case of RT-PCR tests, and as the dye and primers are inexpensive, the rt-LAMP test becomes highly affordable.


The rt-LAMP assay is a molecular test with high sensitivity and specificity. CDC/ RAY BUTLER, MS

The assay was tested on 350 presumptive pulmonary TB sputum samples. The rt-LAMP kit was evaluated against a microbiological reference standard (MRS), GeneXpert, and smear test. The study was conducted from October 2019 to March 2020 and from January 2023 to March 2024. The rt-LAMP assay demonstrated slightly higher sensitivity and specificity than the GeneXpert assay. Compared with MRS, rt-LAMP showed 89.36% sensitivity and 94.06% specificity.

"The rt-LAMP assay kit has been developed as an open platform system which allows existing RT-PCR machines to be repurposed for TB diagnosis. This can be done by programming an existing RT-PCR machine to run at one temperature setting instead of three," Dr. Anoopkumar says. "It is possible to process up to 96 or 384 tests in a single run. Thus the assay facilitates high throughput testing, allowing for a large number of patient samples to be processed in a single run."

"The technology has been licensed to industry, has received approval from CDSCO, and is currently being validated by ICMR. The WHO Health Technology Access Pool program is currently evaluating the technology and is waiting for ICMR validation," he says.

With nearly 79% of presumptive TB cases in India diagnosed using sputum smear microscopy and only 21% tested using molecular assay as recently as 2023, India continues to over-rely on smear microscopy for TB diagnosis.

Despite an increase in molecular testing facilities from 5,090 in 2022 to 6,496 in 2023, it is nowhere close to meeting the National Strategic Plan 2017-2025 of reducing the reliance on smear microscopy.

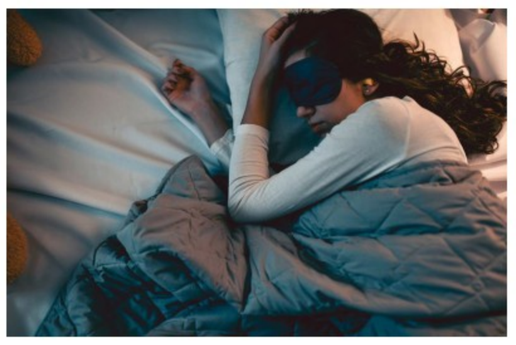
SNAPSHOTS

Caspian Sea decline threatens endangered seals

Water levels in the Caspian Sea are reducing as hotter temperatures cause more water to evaporate than is flowing in. Even if global warming is limited to below 2 degree C, it is likely that the level of the Caspian Sea will decline by 5-10 metres, but if temperatures rise further, water levels could drop by as much as 21 metres by 2100. The declining water levels will leave Caspian seals with significantly reduced breeding habitat, restrict access to spawning rivers for sturgeons, and lead to the loss of coastal lagoons.

Guinea pigs: an animal model to study human embryo

The first few days of a human embryo's development, known as pre-implantation, are important. It is when the first cells are formed, and these decide if the embryo can survive, how it will implant in the womb and how the tissues of the fetus will develop. There are still logistical, ethical and legal limitations to using human embryos for research purposes. Study shows that guinea pigs can serve as a reliable and robust small animal model to enhance our understanding of human embryogenesis.



Sleep unlocks brain's ability to sort memories, study finds

A study found that a good night's sleep may actively enhance memory rather than simply protect it from decline. The advantage of sleep versus wake for sequential memory was evident after a single night of sleep, and this advantage held at all test points, including 15 months later. Deep sleep benefits memory for the sequential structure of events, even when the details of events fade with time, and points to a cause of memory changes in adults living with dementia.

Question Corner

Electric field

Can fruit fly larvae sense electric fields?

Researchers have found that besides sharks, bees and platypus, even fruit fly larvae can sense electric fields and navigate toward the negative electric potential using a small set of sensory neurons in their head. Researchers at the University of California at Santa Barbara immersed a fruit fly larva in an electric field and they found the larva reoriented itself and began moving toward the negative electrode. They found the neurons crucial to electroreception were located on either side of the larva's head. Exposing the head segment to an electric field under the microscope confirmed their initial finding. They found that only a single neuron in this cluster responded to the electric field. The neuron was inhibited when the electrode was in front of the head, and activated when the electrode was behind, triggering the larva to reorient itself. By eliminating confounding factors, the researchers confirmed that the larvae were responding to the electric field. And it was specifically the neurons in their head that detected the electric field, its strength and orientation.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Does Tahawwur Rana have links with Pakistan?

Will his extradition help India find a direct link between Pakistan and the Mumbai 26/11 terror case?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:

Sixteen years after David Coleman Headley (Daood Gilani) and Tahawwur Hussain Rana were arrested by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed an FIR and a charge-sheet against them, Rana has been extradited to India. His extradition marks a major win for Indian investigators, lawyers and diplomats. Rana will now be in NIA custody and face trial in India. This will be the third in-person trial in India of terrorists, after Ajmal Kasab and Zabiuddin Ansari alias Abu Jundal, involved in November 26, 2008 terror attacks.

What is the evidence against Rana?

The case against Rana was laid out by U.S. investigators prosecuting him for the Mumbai attacks, planning the Copenhagen attack and for links to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT); he was convicted in the last two cases in 2011. He had appealed against the extradition order to India, but the U.S. Supreme Court finally rejected it last week. The evidence against him is based on three things: First, Rana's actions in terms of funding and housing Headley, and helping him get Indian visas and tickets until 2009 as well as building a fake identity for him as a representative of Rana's travel and immigration agency. In November 2008, days before the attacks, Rana and his wife travelled to Mumbai and other Indian cities. Second, Headley's testimony, as part of the plea bargain against Rana, clearly states that Rana knew about the 26/11 conspiracy from 2006, and helped Headley carry out his reconnaissance operation willingly, and celebrated the attacks. Rana has denied this, and was eventually acquitted in the U.S. case. Third, are the FBI intercepts of Rana's conversations with Headley, including one particular meeting Rana had with a "co-conspirator" in Dubai in September 2008, when he was told the attacks were imminent.

> Questions linger over how much U.S. authorities knew about the planning, given that they had shared a number of intelligence alerts about terror strikes on Mumbai hotels prior to November 2008

What is the Pakistan angle?

After Rana was extradited, Pakistan's Foreign Office attempted to distance itself from him, holding that he had taken up Canadian citizenship in 1997, and hadn't tried to renew his papers since. Rana was born in Pakistan's Punjab province and attended a military school in Hasan Abdal, where he first met Headley. He joined the Pakistani army as a doctor and rose to the rank of colonel before he inexplicably left for Canada, claiming he had a medical condition. The Pakistani army declared him a deserter and Rana claimed Headley had told him he would use his connections to clear Rana's records, which was why he agreed to help him. In his testimony, Headley says that Rana stayed in touch with LeT handlers throughout the planning of the operations. The question remains whether during the trial in India, Rana can point to a more direct link between Pakistan and the 26/11 conspiracy.

What about the trial in Pakistan?

After initially pursuing the evidence and promising India cooperation in the 26/11 case, Pakistan's government has virtually dropped it, even as the trail led closer to LeT commanders including Hafiz Saeed, and possibly to LeT's handlers in Pakistan's intelligence agencies. However, between 2009 and 2013, Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency managed to collect crucial evidence about the case, listed by then Director General Tariq Khosa in an article in Pakistan's *Dawn* newspaper. It proved Kasab had been trained in LeT camps in Thatta, Sindh, and the boat used by the terrorists was traced to a shop in Karachi where an LeT operative paid for it. More significantly, the operations room in Karachi from where LeT commanders gave direct orders to the terrorists was raided. The findings were shared with India for the Kasab trial. However, when India sought to match the voice recordings from the ops room to those in custody like Hafiz Saeed and Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, Pakistan stopped cooperating.

Has the U.S. withheld anything from India?

Questions linger over how much U.S. authorities knew about the planning, given that they had shared a number of intelligence alerts about terror strikes on Mumbai hotels prior to November 2008. According to Indian officials, Headley was a "double agent", an informant of the U.S. Drugs Enforcement Agency (DEA), and carrying out an LeT plot, and that the intelligence came from him or through FBI intercepts. It is certainly curious that even though the FBI was tracking Headley's calls and movement, they didn't alert Indian authorities when he returned to India after the attacks in early 2009, to plan more attacks. He was arrested when he prepared to leave for Denmark in September 2009 to carry out attacks there.

What has the SC ruled on the T.N. Governor?

What does the verdict say on R.N. Ravi's refusal to give his assent to several Bills? What are the timelines set for both the Governor and the President? Does this give Opposition-ruled State governments a constitutional remedy against inordinate delays by Governors in clearing Bills?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

On April 8, the Supreme Court declared Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's prolonged refusal to give his assent to 10 Bills as illegal and erroneous in law. In a landmark verdict, Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan underscored the importance of cooperative federalism, amid growing concerns over the increasing politicisation of the Governor's office in Opposition-ruled States.

What is the process of granting assent?

Article 200 of the Constitution delineates the powers conferred upon a Governor when a Bill, having been passed by the State legislature, is presented for assent. The only exception is Money Bills, which are deemed to have automatically received assent. In all other cases, once a Bill has been passed by both Houses of the legislature, the Governor can exercise one of three options: grant assent, withhold assent and return the Bill to the Assembly for reconsideration, or reserve it for the President's consideration. However, only those Bills that undermine the High Court's powers to the extent of endangering its constitutionally mandated role can be reserved for Presidential consideration.

The first proviso to Article 200 stipulates that if the Governor decides to withhold assent, the Bill must be returned to the Assembly "as soon as possible", accompanied by a request to reconsider the proposed legislation or suggest amendments. However, if the Assembly, upon such reconsideration, passes the Bill with or without the amendments, the Governor is constitutionally obliged to grant assent.

> 'The ruling upholds the principles of federalism and provides Opposition-ruled States a clear constitutional remedy"

Turning tide: Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Can the Governor exercise a 'pocket veto'?

The ongoing impasse between the Governors and Opposition-ruled State governments primarily hinges on the interpretation of this proviso. While it mandates prompt action, it stops short of prescribing a definitive timeline. This constitutional silence has often been exploited by Governors to indefinitely delay action on a Bill without formally returning it – a tactic colloquially known as the "pocket veto."

However, the judges pointed out that the use of the term "shall" in the substantive portion of Article 200, when read in conjunction with the phrase "as soon as possible" in its proviso, precludes the possibility of any such pocket veto. Justice Pardiwala, who authored the judgment, clarified that the Governor's option to "withhold assent" cannot be equated with an unqualified power to reject or veto legislation duly enacted by the State legislature. He cautioned that such an interpretation would undermine the very foundation of a representative democracy.

When about President's consideration?

Further limiting the discretionary powers of the Governor, the court ruled that a Bill cannot be reserved for the President's consideration once it has been returned to the State legislature, reconsidered and resubmitted for assent. The only exception is if the Bill, in its second iteration, is materially different from the original version. The judgment also clarified that such reservation cannot be based on "personal dissatisfaction" or "political expediency" and is only permissible in instances where there is a grave threat to democratic principles.

Notably, the judges have set a three-month deadline for the President to decide whether to assent to Bills referred by the Governor. The clock will begin ticking from the day the reference is received. "Any delay beyond this period must be accompanied by justifiable reasons and communicated to the concerned State," the ruling states. A recommendation has also been made to the President to seek the Supreme Court's advice on such Bills, in line with the procedure outlined in Article 143 of the Constitution, as a measure of prudence. The judges pointed out that this course of action is important, given the lack of a mechanism at the State level for the Governor to refer Bills to constitutional courts for their opinion.

What are the timelines prescribed?

The court has imposed similar timelines on the Governor to prevent any obstruction of the State's legislative process. It clarified that when the Governor, acting on the Cabinet's advice, opts to withhold assent or reserve a Bill for the President's consideration, such action must be taken forthwith and no later than one month. If the Governor withholds assent contrary to ministerial advice, the Bill must be returned within three months, accompanied by a message detailing the rationale for the decision. Similarly, if the Governor reserves a Bill for the President against the Cabinet's recommendation, this must also be done within three months. Finally, if the Bill is re-passed by the State legislature after reconsideration, the Governor is required to grant assent within one month. However, the ruling noted that any departure from these timelines may be condoned if there are "reasonable grounds".

Is judicial review permissible?

The judges emphasised that any exercise of gubernatorial discretion must be amenable to judicial review to prevent any "disregard" for the will of the people, as expressed through their elected representatives. Invoking its inherent powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, the court deemed the 10 pending Bills to have received assent. Justice Pardiwala reasoned that the exercise of such extraordinary powers was warranted, given the Governor's "scant respect" for prior rulings. He was particularly critical of the Governor's decision to return the Bills without providing reasons, in clear violation of the court's binding directive in *State of Punjab versus Principal Secretary to the Governor of Punjab* (2024).

What are the potential implications?

P.D.T. Achary, former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, told *The Hindu* that the ruling upholds the principles of federalism and provides Opposition-ruled State governments a clear constitutional remedy against inordinate delays by Governors in granting assent to Bills passed by the legislature. "The Supreme Court has been reining in the discretionary powers of Governors for some time now. However, what sets this judgment apart is its articulation of definitive timelines for both the Governor and the President, ensuring that the enactment of crucial legislation is not indefinitely stalled," he said. Senior advocate Shadan Farsat noted that the top court has rarely invoked its inherent powers to create a legal fiction of deemed assent. "By recognising automatic assent in cases where the Governor fails to adhere to the prescribed timelines, the court has instituted a crucial safeguard against abuse of the office," he said. He added that the ruling could pave the way for similar judicial intervention in cases where the Union government delays acting on collegium recommendations. "Extending such powers to judicial appointments would help prevent an executive veto over the collegium's decisions," he told *The Hindu*.

How will genetic mapping of Indians help?

In the global genomics landscape, how well is the ethnolinguistic and sociocultural diversity of India captured? Which are the groups that have been included? Who have been left out? Which language groups did the study cover? How will it help the government devise health policy?

R. Prasad

The story so far:

The preliminary findings of the GenomeIndia project, which attempted to study whole genomes of 10,000 healthy and unrelated Indians from 83 population groups, were published in the journal *Nature Genetics* on April 8. After excluding two populations, the published findings are based on the genetic information of 9,772 individuals – 4,696 male participants and 5,076 female participants.

When was it launched?

The 10,000-human genome study was launched in January 2020 with funding from the Department of Biotechnology. Blood samples and associated phenotype data such as weight, height, hip circumference, waist circumference and blood pressure were collected from 20,000 individuals representing 83 population groups – 30 tribal and 53 non-tribal populations – spread across India. Of the 20,000 individuals, DNA samples from 10,074 individuals were subjected to whole genome sequencing, but later two populations were excluded.

The GenomeIndia project is a collaborative effort of 20 institutions. The genome sequencing was carried out by the Centre for Brain Research at IISc Bengaluru, the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in Hyderabad, Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology in Delhi, National Institute of Biomedical Genomics in Kolkata, and Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre in Gandhinagar.

> Understanding Indian genetic variations can ensure tailor-made policy and healthcare

ISTOCKPHOTO

How were diverse samples collected?

A median of 159 samples from each non-tribal group and 75 samples from each tribal group chosen were collected from 83 population groups that inhabit over 100 distinct geographical locations to estimate the relatively rare mutations that are important to understand complex diseases. The samples were taken from unrelated individuals to ensure accurate estimation of mutation frequencies across groups. Three to six parent-child pairs were included in each population group to uncover de novo mutations (mutations that occur randomly in a child but not seen in parents).

Genomes of five tribes across India – Tibeto-Burman tribe, Indo-European tribe, Dravidian tribe, Austro-Asiatic tribe, and a continentally admixed outgroup – were sequenced. Genomes of three non-tribes – Tibeto-Burman non-tribe, Indo-European non-tribe, and Dravidian non-tribe – were also sequenced. Since language is an established proxy for genetic diversity in the Indian population, sampling was done to appropriately represent the four large major language families as well – Indo-European, Dravidian, Austro-Asiatic and Tibeto-Burman. However, the four ancient populations living in the Andamans, dating back 65,000 years ago, and two relatively modern populations from about 5,500 years ago, were not included.

What do the preliminary findings reveal?

In total, 180 million mutations have been found from the individuals sequenced; while 130 million variations are in the non-sex chromosomes (22 pairs of autosomes), 50 million mutations are in the sex chromosomes X and Y. It should not be surprising that 180 million mutations were found. The reason: the human genome has three billion base pairs of DNA and the genome of 9,772 individuals were sequenced. Most importantly, the 9,772 individuals belong to 83 distinctly different endogamous groups. Of that, the non-coding regions in the genome, which have DNA sequences that do not directly code for proteins, comprise 98%. A large number of the 180 million variants found in the sequenced genomes of 9,772 individuals are very likely to be present in the non-coding regions.

Polymorphisms or variations in the non-coding regions of the human genome, particularly the mutations that are evolutionarily conserved, will help in tracing evolutionary history. Tracing evolutionary history becomes important as many of the "contemporary Indian populations have originated from a few founding groups and have maintained distinct identities through centuries of endogamy."

What is the significance of the mutations in endogamous groups?

Endogamy is highly prevalent in all the 83 population groups under study, though the degree varies. As a result of the centuries-long practice of endogamy, population-specific unique variations, including distinct disease-causing mutations with amplified frequencies, are likely to be seen within specific groups. While the global genomic landscape is predominantly Eurocentric, and other genome projects have documented genetic diversity, India, with its prolific and distinct endogamous populations, has been severely underrepresented in these studies. The study is therefore important for having captured the genetic diversity of "one of the highly underrepresented populations in the global genomics landscape". Genetic mutations found associated with endogamous population-specific diseases will help the government to come up with targeted public health policies.

What are the medical implications?

The 130 million variations identified are expected to spur studies that aim to determine the possible roles of population-specific genetic mutations in various diseases. Understanding genetic variations can pave the way for precision medicine, ensuring treatments and interventions tailor-made for Indian genetic profiles. The data on variants associated with diseases will enable the development of affordable, genomics-based diagnostic tools, facilitating early detection, and prevention and management of diseases in India.

PROFILES

An atomic tug of war

Iran's nuclear programme

Iran, which has come under increasing pressure since the start of the Gaza war, has taken up the offer for talks put forth by U.S. President Donald Trump, who has threatened military action in combination with Israel, if those discussions were to fail

Vasudevan Mukunth
Stanly Johny

The U.S. and Iran have started talks about the latter's controversial nuclear programme. After Donald Trump, in his first term, unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran had maintained that it would not hold direct talks with the U.S. There were multiple rounds of indirect talks in Vienna after Joe Biden became President in 2021, but those efforts were inconclusive. Iran, in this period, substantially accelerated its nuclear programme.

In recent months, Iran came under increasing pressure – its so-called axis of resistance has been humbled by Israel, it lost an ally in Syria, and its economy is in serious trouble. As the heat on Iran rose, Mr. Trump offered dialogue. "We can't let Iran have a nuclear bomb," he said last week in a joint press conference at the White House with the visiting Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. Faced with the threat of war in a moment of weakness, Iran has agreed to engage the Americans diplomatically.

Iran, a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), ceased to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) after the 1979 revolution. Ever since, the Islamic Republic faced allegations that it has been pursuing a clandestine nuclear programme. In 2022, the IAEA launched an investigation into Iran's alleged nuclear activities. In November 2011, the agency reported that Iran appeared to have worked on designing an atom bomb. Iran has always maintained that its nuclear programme was for peaceful purposes. But its critics pointed to its stockpile of highly enriched uranium as evidence of the country's clandestine designs.

Iran's uranium enrichment story, however, is a long, complex one.

In natural settings, U-235, the uranium isotope that can sustain nuclear fission chain reactions, makes up around 0.7% of uranium. The rest is U-238. Before its use in nuclear settings, uranium is enriched to increase the concentration of U-235. Both low-enriched uranium (LEU) and high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) are enriched up to 20% for use in different kinds of nuclear reactors. Highly enriched uranium (HEU) refers to enrichment beyond 20%. Weapons-grade uranium is typically 90% or more.

Following the breakdown of the JCPOA, Iran has accelerated its nuclear programme, with the country enriching uranium to 60% at its plants.AP

Centrifuges are the world's enrichment technology of choice. These containers spin their contents at several thousand revolutions per minute. Because U-238 is slightly denser than U-235, the centrifugal force pushes it more towards the periphery. The feed is uranium hexafluoride (UF6) gas. Enrichment facilities have hundreds or thousands of centrifuges operating in cascades, with each cascade accepting as its feed the output of the previous cascade. At each step, more-enriched UF6 is passed to the next while the rest, called tails, is recycled or processed for long-term storage. Each centrifuge's enrichment service is measured in separative work units (SWUs). Depending on the centrifuge design, producing 1 kg of weapons-grade uranium from natural uranium may need around 250 SWUs.

In 2006, Iran enriched uranium to about 3.5% using 164 IR-1 centrifuges, each of which delivers around 0.8 SWU/year. In 2010, the IAEA confirmed that Iran had enriched uranium to 19.75% at the Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant and in 2012 at the Fordow plant. By 2013, the country had a stockpile of about 7.6 tonnes of 3.5% LEU and 0.2 tonnes of 19.75% LEU gas.

Terms of the original deal

The 2015 Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA), between Tehran, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the European Union, provided a short-lived solution to the nuclear crisis. The deal promised to remove international sanctions on Iran in return for the country removing most of its centrifuges, limiting enrichment to 3.67%, and capping its LEU stockpile at 300 kg, among other measures. Iran was fully compliant with the terms when Mr. Trump pulled the U.S. out of it in May 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Tehran. Iran has since accelerated its nuclear programme breaching the agreement, which saw the country enriching uranium to 60% at its plants.

This is crucial. If 126 SWUs are required to enrich uranium from 0.7% such that it yields 1 kg of 60% HEU plus 0.3% tails, only 2.2 SWUs are required to enrich 60% HEU to 1 kg of 90% weapons-grade level plus 20% tails (which is higher at higher enrichment). In other words, 60% HEU will have completed more than 90% of the work required to produce weapons-grade uranium. According to some estimates, Iran has around 70 kg of 60% HEU, sufficient for five to eight nuclear warheads.

While the number of SWUs decreases with more enrichment, the energy cost skyrockets. But Iran's commitment suggests the centrifuges will not want for power.

Iran Watch has estimated that all centrifuges "presently installed in production mode" in Iran could produce 168-269 kg of 60% high-enriched uranium in "up to two weeks" (assuming 1% tails and 54% feed enrichment). The time to produce enough U-235 for one warhead may thus have dropped from around a year during the JCPOA to a few weeks today.

The IAEA suggests a "significant quantity" of 25 kg per warhead with a blast yield of 20 kilotonnes (to compare, Hiroshima was devastated by a yield of 13-16 kilotonnes). Newer designs could have the same yield with lighter cores. Iran may also assemble more weapons of lower yield.

Iran's centrifuges also raise questions about how quickly it can assemble a bomb. Post-enrichment, engineers must convert the uranium in UF6 to metallic form and machine it into the bomb's core. Second, they need to develop explosives, detonators, arming and firing systems, neutron initiators, explosive lenses, and launch and re-entry vehicles. And they need to conduct tests. The second set can be done in parallel with enrichment, however. According to data from the IAEA and the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence, among others, Iran ran a programme in 1999-2003 during which it also focused on these activities.

Ramifications of talks failure

Harvard University Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs scholar Hui Zhang has written that if Iran's steps towards its first nuclear weapon are like China's in 1964, Iran will need "probably less than three weeks" between gaseous weapons-grade uranium and a bomb.

Thus, Iran may be able to develop a deployable warhead in a matter of months if it decides to do so.

As of now there is no evidence to suggest Iran has made that decision. But Iran's growing stockpile of HEU and shrinking breakout time – the time taken to convert weapons-grade fuel into a bomb – have already set alarm bells ringing in Israel. Tel Aviv has made it clear that it will not hesitate to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities. Mr. Trump has also threatened Iran with military action. But before that, he wants to try the path of diplomacy. If the talks collapse, there would be bombing, he threatened. "If it requires military, we're going to have military. Israel will obviously be very much involved in that – it'll be the leader of that."

THE GIST

- Iran, a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), ceased to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency after the 1979 revolution
- The 2015 Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA), between Tehran, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the European Union, provided a short-lived solution to the nuclear crisis. However, Donald Trump, during his first presidency, pulled the U.S. out of the deal in May 2018, and reimposed sanctions on Iran
- Expert says that if Iran's steps towards its first nuclear weapon are like China's in 1964, Iran will need "probably less than three weeks" between gaseous weapons-grade uranium and a bomb

Congenial comrade

M. A. Baby

The newly elected General Secretary of the CPI(M) faces the tall task of unifying the fragmented Left, defining his party's role within the INDIA bloc, and securing victory in Kerala Assembly polls

Navamy Sudhish

In a political landscape ruled by grandstanding and strategising, Marian Alexander Baby's election as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) was as quiet as it was resolute. After remaining in the shadows for several years, he emerged as the right choice for the role at the 24th Party Congress held in Madurai. He is the second leader from Kerala, after E.M.S Namboodiripad, to assume the role.

Mr. Baby's political career is marked by an unwavering commitment to the Left ideology, which also worked as an ideal compass guiding his journey. His congeniality, his comrades say, has not been a carefully crafted performance, but an inherent trait facilitating better communication, even across political lines.

Born into a Latin Christian family at Prakkulam in Kerala's Kollam district, Mr. Baby's political journey began during his formative years as a member of the Kerala Students Federation, the precursor to the Students Federation of India (SFI). Sree Narayana College, Kollam, where he pursued his higher studies, played an integral part in shaping the politician and individual that he is. His contemporaries remember him as a true-blue Marxist, a bibliophile and a cineaste, and a comrade with deep appreciation for arts and literature.

The 1970s presented a challenging landscape for Left-leaning student movements. There was fervent activism and arrests as he rose through the ranks, becoming the State president of the SFI in 1975. He was a 20-year-old at that time, and within months he faced arrest following the declaration of Emergency.

Rise through the party

Mr. Baby was elected the national president of the SFI in 1979, and in 1987, he took over as the national president of the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI). At 32, he was nominated to the Rajya Sabha and his term lasted from 1986 to 1998. In 1989, he was elected to the CPI (M) Central Committee, and in 1992, he entered the CPI(M) Central Secretariat. He was made a Polit Bureau member in 2012.

In the 2006 Assembly polls, Mr. Baby was elected from the Kundara constituency in Kollam and served as Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs in the Left Front-government led by V.S. Achuthanandan. During his ministerial tenure, the introduction of the chapter *Mathamillatha Jeevan* (Life Without Religion) in the Class VII social science textbook sparked a controversy. The lesson was revised and Mr. Baby sought to pacify protesters, maintaining that the lesson was not against religion or god.

Mr. Baby also significantly contributed to Kerala's cultural scene during his term. He was instrumental in establishing the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, which has since evolved into a highly regarded event on the global art circuit.

A true patron of the arts, he enjoys a broad and unique circle of friends spanning Kerala's artistic and literary fraternity, a distinction few other politicians could claim.

Despite his initial hesitation, the party persuaded Mr. Baby to contest the 2014 Lok Sabha elections from Kollam. There, he faced N.K. Premachandran of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), his former ministerial colleague who had switched allegiance to the UDF. Pinarayi Vijayan's vitriolic campaign against Mr. Premachandran backfired, contributing to the RSP leader's victory over Mr. Baby by 37,649 votes. The defeat deeply affected Mr. Baby, who offered to resign as MLA. While the CPI(M) State committee rejected his resignation, his subsequent absence from the Assembly for several days was noticeable.

Mr. Baby assumes the role of general secretary at a critical juncture for the CPI(M) and the Left wing. He takes on the mantle when the CPI(M) is reeling under substantial setbacks, having lost ground in Tripura and West Bengal. Unlike his predecessor Sitaram Yechury, Mr. Baby lacks a widespread national profile.

Unifying the currently fragmented Left, defining his party's role within the INDIA bloc, and securing victory in the upcoming Kerala Assembly elections – the newly elected General Secretary is definitely poised for an uphill task.

Trump's tariff czar

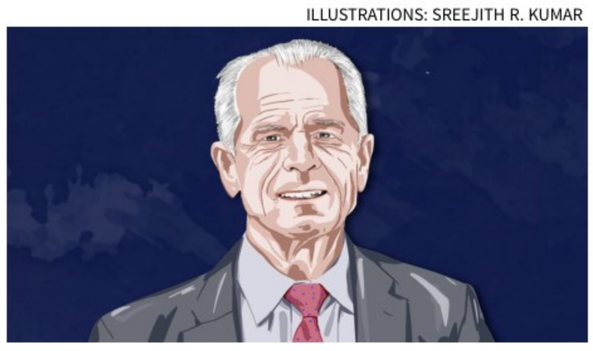
Peter Navarro

The President's adviser is acknowledged as the brain behind the administration's weaponisation of tariffs, which has set the country on a collision course with China

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

G. Sampath

The mayhem unleashed by U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff policy caused many to wonder: does he have a qualified economist to advise him? Turns out he does. His name is Peter Navarro and he holds a PhD in economics from Harvard.



Mr. Navarro, senior counsel for trade and manufacturing to the U.S. President, is acknowledged as the brain behind the administration's weaponisation of tariffs. His White House colleague Elon Musk, however, might dispute the 'brain' part. Mr. Musk has publicly called Navarro a "moron", "Peter Retarrdo" and described him as "dumber than a sack of bricks". Mr. Navarro hit back, asserting that Mr. Musk was not a 'car manufacturer' but only a 'car assembler', as his company, Tesla, sourced parts from around the world.

The public spat with Mr. Musk is only the latest chapter in the bizarre career of Mr. Navarro, an economist not taken seriously by mainstream economists. And yet, by virtue of having the ear of the U.S. President, he is arguably the most powerful economist in the world today. Not only are his ideas dictating U.S. trade policy, but his antipathy toward China has set the world's two largest economies on a collision course that he appears to have both anticipated and solicited.

A professor of economics and public policy who taught for three decades at the University of California, Irvine, Mr. Navarro was not always a protectionist. In his own telling, he became one only after observing China's deleterious impact on the American economy. He has set out his analysis in two books, *The Coming China Wars* (2006) and *Death by China* (2011), where he argues that China, in its pursuit of global economic domination, is following unfair practices that are bound to generate conflict – over energy, natural resources, environment, intellectual property, and employment.

Mr. Navarro flags four issues in particular: China's "theft" of American intellectual property, its disregard of environmental norms, its currency manipulation, and the subsidies it gives its exporters. All of this gives China an unfair advantage in the form of an ever-mounting trade surplus that, Mr. Navarro argues, China uses to buy up American assets. Not only is China responsible for hollowing out American manufacturing, it also poses a national security risk given that this "cheating" is by a geopolitical rival.

Not many would dispute his thesis that the migration of manufacturing jobs to China has affected American blue collar workers. But his solution – taking the hammer to free trade – has few backers in mainstream economics. Mr. Navarro believes that by whipping China with higher and higher tariffs, the U.S. could force it to mend its ways.

As Mr. Navarro championed these views through books and television, his protectionist rhetoric caught Mr. Trump's eye, resonating as it did with the latter's agenda of 'MAGA' economic nationalism.

In his first Presidency, Mr. Trump appointed Mr. Navarro as head of the National Trade Council. Although his designation kept changing, Mr. Navarro, in his stint in the White House, spearheaded a trade war with China, pulled the U.S. out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which contained measures to lower tariffs, and tried to get America out of the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement.

Mr. Navarro is that rare official from the first Trump Presidency who not only lasted the full term but made it to the second. Some would say he earned it: Mr. Navarro refused to testify in the investigation into the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, opting to serve four months in jail for contempt of Congress. Clearly, not even Mr. Musk, who donated millions to Mr. Trump's campaign, can outscore him in the loyalty metrics.

With most nations ready to talk to the U.S., Mr. Navarro's tariff policy appears to have isolated the one country that had been his target all along. The "China Wars" he had warned about is almost here. It remains to be seen if the U.S. economy, and his associates in the White House, share his appetite for this fight.

DHAKA

Bangladesh launches probe after effigy resembling Hasina set on fire

AFP

An effigy said to resemble ousted Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and titled "Face of Fascism" was burned at Dhaka University, authorities said on Saturday. The effigy depicted a woman with horns and a large nose. Authorities launched an investigation into the act, which also damaged a peace symbol. AFP

LIBREVILLE

Junta chief frontrunner as Gabon holds first polls since 2023 coup

AFP

Gabonese voters began casting ballots on Saturday in a presidential election expected to elect junta chief Brice Oligui Nguema. Mr. Oligui, who led the 2023 coup against the Bongo dynasty, campaigns for a seven-year term amid high unemployment, poor infrastructure, and heavy debt. Results are due on Monday. AFP

NATAL

Brazil's Bolsonaro hospitalised with 'unbearable' abdominal pain

AFP

Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro was hospitalised on Friday with abdominal pain, interrupting a political event. The 70-year-old, who is seeking to make a political comeback even as he faces a criminal trial, was airlifted to a hospital in Natal after experiencing "unbearable" pain, a complication from his 2018 stabbing. AFP

WASHINGTON

Argentina receives $42 billion from international financial institutions

AFP

Three financial institutions pledged $42 billion to aid Argentina's economy on Friday. The IMF approved a $20 billion bailout, the World Bank offered $12 billion, and the IDB committed $10 billion. President Javier Milei hailed the support, aiming to stabilise the peso and boost economic growth. AFP

Iran, U.S. start talks under shadow of regional conflict

U.S. envoy Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi briefly speak face-to-face during the talks in Oman; both sides describe the discussions as 'positive and constructive'; next round on April 19

Associated Press
MUSCAT

Iran and the United States will hold more negotiations next week over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme, Iranian state television reported on Saturday at the end of the first round of talks between the two countries since President Donald Trump returned to the White House.

Iran's state-run broadcaster revealed that U.S. West Asia envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi "briefly spoke" together – the first time the two nations have done that since the Obama administration.

Words of peace: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi meets with Omani FM Badr al-Busaidi in Oman on Saturday. REUTERS

Tehran's declaration that the two sides spoke face-to-face – even if briefly – suggests the negotiations went well even to Iranian state TV, which long has been controlled by hard-liners.

In a statement released on Saturday afternoon, the White House described the discussions as "very positive and constructive," while conceding the issues that need to be resolved "are very complicated".

The next round of talks will take place on Saturday, April 19, according to the Iranian and American statements.

Badr al-Busaidi, Oman's Foreign Minister who shuttled between the two sides, said the countries have a "shared aim of concluding a fair and binding agreement".

"I would like to thank my two colleagues for this engagement, which took place in a friendly atmosphere conducive to bridging viewpoints and ultimately achieving regional and global peace, security and stability," Mr. al-Busaidi wrote on X.

Israel takes control of key corridor in southern Gaza

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Israel announced on Saturday that its military had completed the takeover of a new corridor in southern Gaza, advancing its efforts to seize large parts of the war-battered Palestinian territory.

"The IDF (military) has now completed its takeover of the Morag axis, which crosses Gaza between Rafah and Khan Younis, turning the entire area between the Philadelphi Route (along the border with Egypt) and Morag into part of the Israeli security zone," Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a statement addressed to residents of Gaza.

"Soon, IDF (military) operations will intensify and expand to other areas throughout most of Gaza,

Israel Katz

and you will need to evacuate the combat zones. In northern Gaza as well – in Beit Hanoun and other neighbourhoods – residents are evacuating, the area is being taken over and the security zone is being expanded, including in the Netzarim corridor," he added.

Since a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas collapsed in mid-March, Israel's renewed offensive in Gaza has displaced hundreds of thousands of people while the military has seized large areas of the war-battered territory.

Top Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have repeatedly said that the ongoing assault aims to pressure Hamas into freeing the remaining hostages held in Gaza.

Hamas on Saturday said that the offensive not only "kills defenceless civilians but also makes the fate of the occupation's prisoners (hostages) uncertain".

The Israeli military, meanwhile, said its air force intercepted three projectiles that were identified as crossing into Israeli territory from southern Gaza on Saturday. The war in Gaza broke out after Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel, and resulted in the deaths of 1,218 people.

Hamas expects 'real progress' in Cairo talks

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Hamas leaders, who are in Cairo for talks with Egyptian mediators, aim for a ceasefire to end the Gaza war. They hope for "real progress" in halting aggression and ensuring Israeli withdrawal.

U.S. President Trump recently hinted at a near-finalised deal for hostage release. Egypt's proposal reportedly includes releasing eight hostages and eight bodies in exchange for a 40-70 day truce and freeing Palestinian prisoners.

Since the ceasefire collapsed on March 18, over 1,500 Palestinians have died in intensified Israeli strikes. UN reports warn of forced transfers and growing humanitarian concerns in Gaza City.

U.S. tariffs will 'inflict serious harm on poor nations': China

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao told the head of the World Trade Organization that U.S. tariffs will "inflict serious harm" on poor nations, according to a Ministry statement released on Saturday.

"These U.S. 'reciprocal tariffs' will inflict serious harm on developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and could even trigger a humanitarian crisis," Mr. Wang told WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala in a call on Friday, the statement said.

"The United States has continuously introduced tariff measures, bringing enormous uncertainty to the world, causing chaos both internationally and domestically within the U.S.," Mr. Wang added.

China also indicated that it would ignore any further levies by U.S. because, Beijing said, it no longer makes economic sense for importers to buy from America.

Trump administration says it will exclude some electronics from reciprocal tariffs

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration late on Friday said it would exclude electronics goods such as smartphones and laptops from reciprocal tariffs, a move that could help keep the prices down for popular consumer electronics that are not usually made in the U.S.

It will also benefit big tech companies such as Apple and Samsung and chip makers like Nvidia.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said items such as smartphones, laptops, hard drives, flat-panel monitors and some chips would qualify for the exemption. Machines used to make semiconductors are excluded too. That means they won't be subject to the current 145% tariffs levied on China or the 10% baseline tariffs elsewhere.

Several U-turns

It is the latest tariff change by the Trump administration, which has made several U-turns in the massive plan to put tariffs in place on goods from most countries. The goal is to encourage more domestic manufacturing. But the exemptions seem to acknowledge that the current electronics supply chain is virtually all in Asia and it will be challenging to shift that to the U.S. For example, about 90% of iPhones are produced and assembled in China, according to Wedbush Securities.

About 90% of iPhones are made and assembled in China, according to Wedbush Securities

The move takes off "a huge black cloud overhang for now over the tech sector and the pressure facing U.S. Big Tech," said Wedbush analyst Dan Ives in a research note.

Mr. Trump previously said he would consider exempting some companies from tariffs.

Neither Apple nor Samsung responded to a request for comment early Saturday. Nvidia declined to comment.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Saturday.

Russia launches scores of drones on Ukraine, injures four

Reuters
KYIV

Russia launched a barrage of drones in an overnight attack on Ukraine, injuring four persons and damaging residential and commercial buildings in Kyiv and other parts of the country, Ukrainian officials said on Saturday. Ukraine's air defences shot down 56 of 88 Russian drones, its air force said. It added that 24 drones were "lost" as the military used electronic warfare to redirect them.

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitchko said that three people were injured in the capital as a result of the drone attacks.

Drone debris also destroyed several commercial buildings, causing large fires in different parts of Kyiv, city officials said.

One more person was wounded in the city of Kharkiv in the northeast, Kharkiv's mayor, Ihor Terekhov, said.

The military reported damage in the Odesa region in the south.

Sport

Scheffler, McIlroy, DeChambeau chomping at Rose's heels

Associated Press
AUGUSTA

AUGUSTA MASTERS

Justin Rose remained atop a star-studded leaderboard after the second round of the Masters on Friday, with defending champion Scottie Scheffler, Rory McIlroy and Bryson DeChambeau all within three shots of the lead.

Rose followed his opening 65 with a 1-under 71 that left him 8 under for the tournament. He was one ahead of DeChambeau, the reigning U.S. Open champion, whose rounds of 69-68 have him firmly in the mix for his first green jacket.

Speaking of first green jackets, McIlroy is in good

DeChambeau. AP

shape to finally get his own. He had the low round of the day, a 6-under 66 to get to 6 under for the tournament. McIlroy needs only the Masters to complete the career grand slam.

Corey Conners also was at 6 under, and Scheffler was in a group another shot back that included Shane Lowry, Matt McCarty and Tyrrell Hatton. Scheffler dropped a shot at the par-4 finishing hole, which played the toughest on the course on Friday.

The biggest names charged up the leaderboard on a warm, sunny day, where overnight rain made the course ripe for scoring for those that went off early but difficult as it dried out for those finishing late in the day.

It also was cut day, and some big names failed to make the weekend. Brooks Koepka made quadruple bogey at 18 and finished at 5 over, missing it by three shots. Mike Weir, Sergio Garcia and Phil Mickelson were among former champs who missed the cut.

Indian compound mixed team wins gold

On target: Rishabh, left, and Surekha, right, finished on top. WORLD ARCHERY

ARCHERY

Press Trust of India
AUBURNDALE (USA)

The Indian compound mixed team of V. Jyothi Surekha and Rishabh Yadav clinched gold at the Archery World Cup Stage 1, defeating Chinese Taipei's Huang I-Jou and Chen Chieh-Lun 153-151 on Saturday.

The Indians lost the first and second series 37-38 and 38-39 before coming back strongly in the third set, winning 39-38 thanks to two 10s and an 'inner 10'. They then easily won the fourth and decisive series 39-36 for an aggregate score of 153-151.

This was after Dhiraj Bommadevara guided the men's recurve team to the final on Thursday after beating Spain 6-2.

De Bruyne inspires City's revival; Arsenal drops more points

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MANCHESTER

Manchester City stormed back from two goals down to thrash Crystal Palace 5-2 as Kevin De Bruyne's masterclass kept alive its top five challenge on Saturday.

Pep Guardiola's side was in danger of suffering a major setback in its bid to reach the Champions League after goals from Eberechi Eze and Chris Richards put Palace in control at the Etihad Stadium.

But De Bruyne stole the show with the kind of dynamic display that made him one of the Premier League's all-time greats.

Any realistic chances Ar-

De Bruyne celebrates. AP

senal had of winning the title disappeared weeks ago and the second-placed Gunners were held 1-1 by Brentford, leaving them 10 points behind Liverpool.

The results: Premier League: Manchester City 5 (De Bruyne 33, Marmoush 36, Kovacic 47, McAtee 56, O'Reilly 79) bt Crystal Palace 2 (Eze 8, Richards 21); Brighton 2 (Pedro 31-pen, 55-pen) drew with Leicester 2 (Mavididi 38, Okoli 74); Nottingham Forest 0 lost to Everton 1 (Doucoure 90+4); Southampton 0 lost to Aston Villa 3 (Watkins 73, Malen 79, McGinn 90+4); Arsenal 1 (Partey 61) drew with Brentford 1 (Wissa 74).

Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen 0 drew with Union Berlin 0; Hoffenheim 2 (Kramaric 4, 32) bt Mainz 0; Borussia M'Gladbach 1 (Guenter 14-og) lost to SC Freiburg 2 (Osterhage 16, Manzambi 90); Bayern Munich 2 (Guerreiro 65, Gnabry 69) drew with Borussia Dortmund 2 (Beier 48, Anton 75).

Serie A: Inter Milan 3 (Arnautovic 13, Martinez 26, Bisseck 55) bt Cagliari 1 (Piccoli 48).

On Friday: LaLiga: Valencia 1 (Guerra 45+4) bt Sevilla 0.

Serie A: Udinese 0 lost to AC Milan 4 (Leao 42, Pavlovic 45, Hernandez 74, Reijnders 81).

Bundesliga: Wolfsburg 2 (Fischer 58, Skov Olsen 75) lost to RB Leipzig 3 (Openda 11, Simons 26, 49).

MAN OF THE MASSES

This one is for the Orange Army: Abhishek after fantastic innings

K.V.S. GIRI

I thought if it's my day, I am going to dedicate to the Orange Army and Hyderabad. This one is special... thanks to Yuvi *paaji* (Yuvraj Singh) and Suryakumar Yadav. I have been in touch with him and he has been there for me. Credit to the team and captain for giving a simple message though we were not doing well — Abhishek Sharma

HOT PURSUIT

'Travishek' power Sunrisers to second-highest chase in IPL

K.V.S. GIRI

Sunrisers Hyderabad completed the second-highest run chase in IPL history when it hunted down the 246-run target against Punjab Kings with nine balls to spare. Incidentally, the record for the biggest chase is held by Kings when they overhauled Kolkata Knight Riders' 261 during the 2024 season.

EXCEPTIONAL

One of the best knocks I have seen: Shreyas on Abhishek's blitz

K.V.S. GIRI

Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer called Abhishek Sharma's century "one of the best knocks" he has seen. "He was a bit lucky as well even though he played an exceptional knock. With dew setting in, it made the wicket easier. The way they batted was out of the world. It was one of the best knocks I have seen in the IPL".

MILESTONE HUNT

Abhishek's 141 a new high for an Indian in league history

K.V.S. GIRI

Abhishek's 141 is the highest by an Indian in the IPL, eclipsing K.L. Rahul's unbeaten 132 (Kings XI Punjab vs RCB, 2020). The lefthander struck the sixth fastest ton (40 balls), and the third quickest by an Indian. Abhishek's is the third-highest score in the tournament behind Chris Gayle (175 n.o.) and Brendon McCullum (158 n.o.).

Abhishek, Head and Lady Luck help Sunrisers snap losing streak

After four straight defeats, the Hyderabad side pulls off a stunning chase against Kings as its openers go on the rampage

IPL-18

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

In the days leading up to the clash with Punjab Kings, officials at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium sought divine intervention to end Sunrisers Hyderabad's run of four defeats. The higher powers seemingly answered those prayers, as SRH beat the Kings by eight wickets on Saturday.

Among the 36,000-plus crowd was Lady Luck, who ensured the boisterous home fans finally had something to celebrate. Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma forged their best partnership (171) to help SRH complete the second-biggest chase in IPL history – hauling in PBKS' total of 245 for six with nine balls to spare.

The 24-year-old had two reprieves early on when an acrobatic Marcus Stoinis failed to hold on to a catch and Glenn Maxwell couldn't find a direct hit with the batter halfway down the pitch. He then saw a catch at deep backward-point ruled out thanks to Yash Thakur overstepping the mark. Abhishek brought up his half-century off just 19 balls. Head, who played second fiddle till the ninth over, broke free, sending Maxwell over the ropes twice to put SRH halfway to victory just 52 balls into its innings.

Chahal's dismissal of Head notwithstanding, Abhishek struck his maiden IPL ton off just 40 balls, celebrating with a message of love to the exuberant crowd. The Amritsar native then registered the highest score by an Indian (141) in the IPL.

By the time Arshdeep ended Abhishek's stay, SRH was well on its way to its second win of the season. Klaasen and Ishan Kishan sealed it in style.

Earlier, proceedings got off to a comical start with Ishan losing track of the ball on the sponsor mat, mustering a sheepish smile while being bailed out by Pat Cummins. However, things quickly turned grim for the host, with Kings plundering 53 runs in the first three overs.

After the openers fell, skipper Shreyas Iyer kept the tempo going, bringing up his fastest IPL half-century (22 balls). Harshal Patel's four-wicket haul made inroads in the Kings' charge before Stoinis clobbered four sixes in the final over off Mohammad Shami to end on a high.

Peak performance: Abhishek's 141, the highest by an Indian in the IPL, included 14 boundaries and 10 maximums. K.V.S GIRI

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS
Priyansh Arya c Nitish b Harshal 36 *(13b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Prabhsimran Singh c Cummins b Eshan Malinga 42 *(23b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c Head b Harshal 82 *(36b, 6x4, 6x6)*, Nehal Wadhera lbw b Eshan Malinga 27 *(22b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shashank Singh lbw b Harshal 2 *(3b)*, Glenn Maxwell b Harshal 3 *(7b)*, Marcus Stoinis (not out) 34 *(11b, 1x4, 4x6)*, Marco Jansen (not out) 5 *(5b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-12): 14; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 245.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-66 (Priyansh, 3.6 overs), 2-91 (Prabhsimran, 6.5), 3-164 (Wadhera, 13.3), 4-168 (Shashank, 14.1), 5-205 (Maxwell, 17.1), 6-206 (Shreyas, 17.3).

SUNRISERS BOWLING
Shami 4-0-75-0, Cummins 4-0-40-0, Harshal 4-0-42-4, Eshan Malinga 4-0-45-2, Zeeshan 4-0-41-0.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Travis Head c Maxwell b Chahal 66 *(37b, 9x4, 3x6)*, Abhishek Sharma c sub (Praveen Dubey) b Arshdeep 141 *(55b, 14x4, 10x6)*, Heinrich Klaasen (not out) 21 *(14b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Ishan Kishan (not out) 9 *(6b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-8): 10; Total (for two wkts. in 18.3 overs): 247.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-171 (Head, 12.2), 2-222 (Abhishek, 16.2).

KINGS BOWLING
Arshdeep 4-0-37-1, Jansen 2-0-39-0, Yash Thakur **(Impact Player for Priyansh)** 2.3-0-40-0, Maxwell 3-0-40-0, Ferguson 0.2-0-1-0, Stoinis 0.4-0-6-0, Chahal 4-0-56-1, Shashank 2-0-27-0.

Toss: PBKS; **PoM:** Abhishek.
Sunrisers won by eight wickets with nine deliveries to spare.

Next assignment

PBKS: April 15 vs KKR New Chandigarh, 7.30 p.m.

SRH: April 17 vs MI Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

On cloud nine: Bagan became the second team after Mumbai City FC to achieve the double.
DEBASISH BHADURI

Mohun Bagan shows it is a Super Giant!

ISL FINAL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant completed a grand double as it lifted the Indian Super League trophy with a 2-1 win over Bengaluru FC in the final at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Saturday.

Own goal
Bengaluru went ahead early in the second half after an own goal by Bagan defender Alberto Rodriguez.

The home side found the equaliser through a penalty by Jason Cummings before Jamie Maclaren produced the winner in the first half of extra-time.

Bagan, which had won the League Shield earlier in the season, became the second team to achieve the double after Mumbai City FC (2020-21).

The visitors dominated the opening half and were unlucky in not finding the back of the net.

However, Bengaluru was rewarded for its efforts immediately after the break when Bagan centreback Rodriguez put the ball into his own goal while trying to clear an attempt from Bengaluru forward Ryan Williams.

Bagan came alive after the hour-mark when head coach Jose Molina brought in Ashique Kurunian and Sahal Abdul Samad for Liston Colaco and Anirudh Thapa. The team equalised in the 72nd minute through Cummings' penalty, turning the contest on its head.

Pulling ahead
Bagan started to grow in the game and nosed ahead in the sixth minute of extra-time after the regulation time ended 1-1.

Maclaren displayed his goal-scoring skills, collecting a regulation pass from Greg Stewart and finishing with an angular drive.

The strike sent the Bagan faithful into a frenzy.

The result (final):
Mohun Bagan Super Giant 2 (Cummings 72-pen, Maclaren 96) bt Bengaluru FC 1 (Rodriguez 49-og).

Markram, Pooran deliver for LSG

Sahil Mathur
LUCKNOW

Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran overshadowed Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan's century stand to take Lucknow Super Giants home with a comfortable six-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in the IPL here on Saturday.

Pooran slammed a 34-ball 61 and helped Super Giants complete the 181-run chase with three balls to spare and register its fourth win to move up the table. Markram took on Mohammed Siraj early, including a 20-run over alongside his new opening partner, Rishabh Pant.

The South African looked to make room and go over the infield as Super Giants ticked off 61 in the first six overs. Pant struggled and walked back after scoring an 18-ball 21, making way for Pooran at No. 3. Pooran and Markram took on the Titans' spinners, including a 24-run over against R. Sai Kishore.

Gill went back to pace, and Prasidh Krishan ended Markram's 58-run onslaught. Pooran continued to make merry, notching up his fifty in 23 balls before miscuing one off Rashid in the 16th over.

Gujarat spinners did take the game till the end, but Ayush Badoni completed the formalities with a six to seal two points. The Titans' middle order failed to follow the tempo that Gill and Sai Sudharsan had set during their 120-run opening partnership.

Put into bat, the duo made most of the fielding restrictions to score 54. Sai Sudharsan began with a boundary. Slow conditions allowed the batters to play the ball late or come down the track. However, Lucknow controlled the game once their stand broke. Super Giants only conceded 60 off the last eight overs.

Onslaught: Markram was in red-hot form. SANDEEP SAXENA

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS
B. Sai Sudharsan c Pooran b Bishnoi 56 *(37b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Shubman Gill c Markram b Avesh 60 *(38b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Jos Buttler c Shardul b Digvesh 16 *(14b, 2x4)*, Washington Sundar b Bishnoi 2 *(3b)*, Sherfane Rutherford lbw b Shardul 22 *(19b, 3x4)*, M. Shahrukh Khan (not out) 11 *(6b, 1x6)*, Rahul Tewatia c Markram b Shardul 0 *(1b)*, Rashid Khan (not out) 4 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (w-9): 9; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 180.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-120 (Gill, 12.1 overs), 2-122 (Sai Sudharsan, 13.1), 3-127 (Washington, 13.6), 4-145 (Buttler, 16.4), 5-176 (Rutherford, 19.3), 6-176 (Tewatia, 19.4).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING
Shardul 4-0-34-2, Akash 3-0-33-0, Digvesh 4-0-30-1, Avesh 4-0-32-1, Bishnoi 4-0-36-2, Markram 1-0-15-0.

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
Aiden Markram c Gill b Prasidh 58 *(31b, 9x4, 1x6)*, Rishabh Pant c Washington b Prasidh 21 *(18b, 4x4)*, Nicholas Pooran c Shahrukh b Rashid 61 *(34b, 1x4, 7x6)*, Ayush Badoni **(Impact Player for Digvesh)** (not out) 28 *(20b, 2x4, 1x6)*, David Miller b Washington 7 *(11b)*, Abdul Samad (not out) 2 *(3b)*; Extras (b-1, w-8): 9; Total (for four wkts. in 19.3 overs): 186.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-65 (Pant, 6.2), 2-123 (Markram, 11.1), 3-155 (Pooran, 15.2), 4-174 (Miller, 18.4).

TITANS BOWLING
Siraj 4-0-50-0, Arshad 2-0-11-0, Prasidh **(Impact Player for Rutherford)** 4-0-26-2, Rashid 4-0-35-1, Washington 4-0-28-1, Sai Kishore 1.3-0-35-0.

Toss: LSG; **PoM:** Markram.
LSG won by six wickets with three balls to spare.

Next assignment

LSG: April 14 vs CSK Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

GT: April 19 vs DC Ahmedabad, 3.30 p.m.

Piastri on pole in his 50th F1 start

Reuters
SAKHIR

McLaren's Oscar Piastri took pole position in Bahrain ahead of his 50th Formula One start with George Russell putting his Mercedes alongside the Australian on the front row for Sunday's race.

Piastri's championship-leading teammate Lando Norris qualified only sixth, a potentially significant blow in the title battle although Max Verstappen will start seventh for Red Bull.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc qualified third and Mercedes' Italian rookie Andrea Kimi Antonelli fourth with Alpine's Pierre Gasly fifth.

Piastri lapped with a best time of one minute 29.841 seconds, 0.168 faster than Russell.

The grid: First row: Piastri (McLaren), Russell (Mercedes); **2nd:** Leclerc (Ferrari), Antonelli (Mercedes); **3rd:** Gasly (Alpine), Norris (McLaren); **4th:** Verstappen (Red Bull), Sainz (Williams). **5th:** Hamilton (Ferrari), Tsunoda (Red Bull); **6th:** Doohan (Alpine), Hadjar (Racing Bulls); **7th:** Alonso (Aston Martin), Ocon (Haas); **8th:** Albon (Williams), Hulkenberg (Stake F1); **9th:** Lawson (Racing Bulls), Bortoleto (Stake F1); **10th:** Stroll (Aston Martin), Bearman (Haas).

Determined India qualifies for World Group playoffs

BJK CUP

Kamesh Srinivasan
PUNE

India rose to the occasion as Ankita Raina and Prarthana Thombare entertained the fans to take India past Korea with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Kim Dabin and Sohyun Park in the Asia-Oceania Billie Jean King Cup women's tennis championship at the Balewadi Stadium on Saturday.

India qualified along with New Zealand for the play-offs, following its 2-1 win over Korea. Both had four wins each in the six-team competition.

Captain Vishal Uppal played a brilliant role in handling the resources, and kept Ankita for the climax even though the temptation would have been to field her as the top singles player in place of Shrivalli Bhamidipaty. In the event, Shrivalli played the best match of her career as she bounced back from the jaws of defeat to beat Sohyun Park in a three-hour marathon to clinch the first rubber for India against Korea.

It was the fifth straight victory in the tournament for Shrivalli, an impressive fare, three wins at No.2 and two wins at No. 1 against high quality opponents, which should do her confidence a world of good.

However, Korea got back into the tie in the second singles as the No. 1 player Dayeon Back handled the challenge from Sahaja Yamalapalli who was returning to action after two days of recovery, following cramps on the second day. Sahaja overcame the rustiness to play smart tennis, recovering from 0-3 to 3-3 in the first set, but Dayeon was in good rhythm, and tons of energy to exasperate the wiry Indian. As it turned out, Ankita and Prarthana came up with a spectacular performance against the Koreans.

Winning feeling! Prarthana and Ankita clinched the decisive doubles. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

The results (league):
Thailand bt Chinese Taipei 2-1 (Lanlana Tararudee bt Fang An Lin 6-3, 6-3; Mananchaya Sawangkaew lost to Joanna Garland 6-4, 5-7, 2-6; Patcharin Cheapchandej & Peangtarn Plipuech bt Yi Tsen Cho & Fang An Lin 6-1, 6-2).
India bt Korea 2-1 (Shrivalli Bhamidipaty bt Sohyun Park 5-7, 6-3, 7-6(5); Sahaja Yamalapalli lost to Dayeon Back 3-6, 4-6; Ankita Raina & Prarthana Thombare bt Sohyun Park & Kim Dabin 6-4, 6-3).

Capital challenge: Hardik will be aiming to spark MI's revival. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Beleaguered MI seeks to halt DC's bull run

Host will be keen to notch up another victory; Capitals' batters set for battle with comeback man Bumrah; onus on Hardik's men to step up

IPL-18

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Soon after K.L. Rahul smashed the winning runs and finished unbeaten on 93 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Thursday, he rejoiced with an atypically animated celebration. He took off his helmet, drew an imaginary circle with his bat adjacent to the playing surface and uttered the words: "This is my ground." It was an emphatic statement by the 32-year-old from Karnataka.

Just as emphatic has been Delhi Capitals' beginning to IPL's 18th season. It has registered four wins out of four to start the campaign, thanks to different players producing the goods at different junctures. While Rahul has shone with his class and composure with the bat, Mitchell Starc and Kuldeep Yadav are major wicket-taking threats at DC's disposal.

Mumbai Indians, which will go up against the Axar Patel-led Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday provided rain doesn't play spoilsport, hasn't had its players stepping up in similar fashion so far. It is thus languishing in the lower half of the table with just one win in five matches.

That isn't to say that there cannot be a change of fortunes in Sunday's high-voltage contest. Particularly with Jasprit Bumrah returning to action in MI's previous game against RCB following a three-month layoff due to a back injury, there is reason for skipper Hardik Pandya to believe that the tide can turn.

The pace supremo showed no signs of rustiness in his comeback outing, conceding just 29 runs in his four overs in a high-scoring duel where all his teammates had economy rates of 10 or more per over.

Royal Challengers will pose a stiff challenge to Royals

M.R. Praveen Chandran
JAIPUR

After experiencing the high from scaling the unassailable peaks in Chennai and Mumbai, it was a sobering experience for Royal Challengers Bengaluru when it lost both its matches at home.

The disheartening six-wicket defeat at the hand of Delhi Capitals in the last outing undid some of the momentum RCB had gained at the start of IPL 2025.

However, on Sunday at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Royal Challengers will get another opportunity to extend their good away record when they take on a stuttering Rajasthan Royals.

Strength

Batting has been RCB's strength with Phil Salt, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar and Devdutt Padikkal looking good on surfaces suiting their styles.

The Bengaluru outfit will be hoping that the wicket in Jaipur will maximise its strength.

Royals haven't had the best of starts this season. After mixed returns from their two games in Guwahati, Royals will be hoping for a turnaround at their original home.

Short of firepower

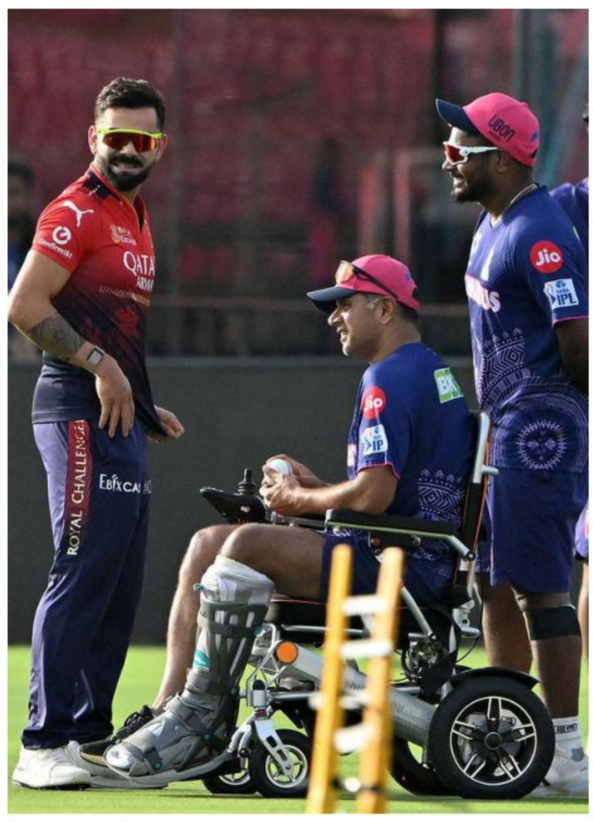
Sanju Samson & Co. have looked short of firepower in both departments. In batting, RR is heavily reliant on its Indian stars who are yet to hit full stride.

The inconsistent form of Yashasvi Jaiswal has hurt the side while Samson hasn't played an innings of significance this season.

Sparks of brilliance from Riyan Parag and Dhruv Jurel haven't been enough either.

The bowling, except for Jofra Archer, hasn't been incisive and Royals have conceded 200-plus totals twice.

Royals will be wary of RCB's batting might and will have come up with a disciplined bowling effort to rein in the visitor.



Chatter before matter: Kohli has a word with Dravid and Samson before the RCB-RR face-off. R.V. MOORTHY

Today's matches

RR vs RCB	DC vs MI
Jaipur, 3.30 p.m.	**Delhi,** 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 31	Played: 35
RR 14 | RCB 15 | NR 2	DC 16 | MI 19
PREVIOUS MEETING: RR won by four wickets, 2024	PREVIOUS MEETING: DC won by 10 runs, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

INBRIEF

FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Situational awareness is key as a finisher: Ashutosh

Ashutosh Sharma has thrived in the finisher's role in the IPL. He began the season with an unbeaten 66 in a one-wicket win. Talking about his mindset ahead of DC's clash against MI, he said: "I like to keep things simple and don't take pressure. Situational awareness is key. You have to adapt depending on when you are going in to bat".

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The mindset at MI is similar to what was at CSK: Chahar

The mindset at MI is similar to what was at CSK. You don't panic even if you lose one or two games. The belief is there that you can win the tournament from any situation. Those are the similarities, which is why both teams have done well in the IPL. The only difference is that CSK has few team meetings. At MI, there are more meetings – MI's Deepak Chahar.

LIVE TELECAST

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 9 p.m.
Formula One: Bahrain GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro & FanCode, 8.30 p.m.

Anderson. REUTERS

Anderson given knighthood

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Former England fast bowler James Anderson has been awarded a knighthood in ex-Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's resignation honours list. Anderson retired from Test cricket in July 2024 having taken 704 wickets, the most by a fast bowler in the history of the five-day format.

Chennai to host WTA 250 tournament

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Top-level tennis will return to Chennai later this year, with the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association set to conduct a WTA 250 tournament from October 27 to November 2 later this year.

Indian tennis legend and TNTA President Vijay Amritraj revealed that a deal has been agreed with the licence holder (Octagon) to bring the event to the city, and only the final approval from the WTA board is pending.

Once approved, the tournament will be the crown jewel of the TNTA's centenary year celebrations.

"I have been trying for the last two years, both on the ATP and WTA side. But it has been hard, as each tour has its own set of issues. Finally, one week came up on the WTA side, and we managed to get it because the government is being so positive in supporting the event. We can't have that kind of support anywhere else, and I was working so hard to have them look at it my way," said Vijay.

"We still have to get the final approval from the WTA board, but I hope that will just be a formality considering we ran a very good event in 2022." Chennai previously hosted a WTA 250 tournament in September 2022 that was won by Linda Fruhvirtova.

India beats Singapore in WJT

Sports Bureau

India beat Singapore 3-0 in the play-off match for the minor placings in the Asia-Oceania WJT under-14 boys' tennis championship in Kuching, Malaysia, on Saturday. India will next play Indonesia in the match for the ninth to 12th places. Korea, Japan, Kazakhstan and Hong Kong reached the semifinals and booked their berth in the World Group competition to be played later in the season.

The results: Play-off (9th to 16th place): India bt Singapore 3-0 (Paranjay Siwach bt Nicholas Pak 6-2, 3-6, [10-8]; Viraj Choudhary bt Matthew Tay 6-2, 6-1; Viraj & Kaustubh Singh bt Leon Ho & Matthew Tay 6-1, 6-2).

SNAPSHOTS

Punjab takes on UP in semifinals, MP faces Manipur

Two-time finalist Haryana was knocked out of the competition after a 2-3 loss to Punjab in the quarterfinals of the 15th men's hockey national championships Division A in Jhansi on Saturday.

Two goals in as many minutes by Punjab, including a penalty stroke by Jugraj Singh, helped it take a 3-1 lead soon after the resumption of play in the third quarter and even though Haryana pulled one back towards the end, it was too little too late.

Punjab will now take on Uttar Pradesh in the semifinals after the latter came from a goal down to beat Karnataka 3-1 in the last match of the day.

Also advancing to the last four was Madhya Pradesh with a 4-2 win over Maharashtra in the shootouts after the teams were tied 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

It will play Manipur which beat Tamil Nadu 4-1 in SO after a goalless 60 minutes.

The results (quarterfinals): Manipur 0 bt Tamil Nadu 0 in SO; Madhya Pradesh 1 (Pratap Lakra 6) bt Maharashtra 1 (Aakib Rahim 9) in SO; Punjab 3 (Araijeet Singh Hundal 15, Jugraj Singh 33, Pardeep Singh 34) bt Haryana 2 (Sanjay 32, Kuldeep 56); Uttar Pradesh 3 (Manish Yadav 45, Pawan Rajbhar 52, Shardanand Tiwari 59) bt Karnataka 1 (Rahul CJ 24).

Sunday's semifinals: MP vs Manipur (5 pm), Punjab vs UP (7 pm).

Advani wins silver at WBL World Matchplay billiards championship

Pankaj Advani claimed the silver after a narrow defeat to David Causier in the final of the WBL World Matchplay billiards championship at Carlow (Ireland).

In a best-of-15 contest, Advani started off with a 2-0 lead but his opponent clawed his way back in the summit clash to win 8-7 (19-100, 0-100, 100-47, 100-52, 19-100, 100-0, 49-100, 100-3, 34-100, 4-100, 100-85, 31-100, 100-53, 100-43, 100-28).

Deepan shocks second seed GM Gregorian

BENGALURU: Deepan Chakravarthy shocked second seeded Armenian Grandmaster Karen Gregorian in the fourth round of the Namma Bengaluru International Grandmasters open chess tournament held at the Koramangala Indoor stadium.

Chakravarthy, Levan Pantsuliaia, Pranav Anand, Sanket Chakravarty, Rajesh, Manuel Petrosyan and Viani Antonio Dcunha are in joint lead with four wins in as many matches.

Centre of excellence for wheelchair tennis opens

The Deuce Tennis Centre (DTC), a centre of excellence for wheelchair tennis, was inaugurated at Sidhalghatta near here on Saturday. Funded through a corporate social responsibility initiative, the launch is a step towards building an inclusive sporting ecosystem.

K.P. Shilpa, ITF no. 96 wheelchair tennis player and Prahlad Srinath, former Indian Davis Cup player were the guests of honour.

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